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Goal! Weekly is available every Monday from all good newsagents across Australia.

(Tuesday in some territories)

#### Publisher:

Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd PO Box 142 Port Melbourne VIC 3207 Ph: 03 9551 7538 Fax: 03 9551 7538

#### Printer: The Age Print Centre

Distribution:

31 - 69 Western Avenue Tullamarine Vic 3043

#### Fairfax Media Publication Solutions

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#### **Martin John hits** milestone

Sunshine George Cross goalkeeper Martin John reaches a milestone this weekend when he plays his 100th match for the Georgies against Dandenong Thunder at the Knights Stadium.

Martin joined Sunshine from Altona Magic and played his first Georgie game against Kingston City on the 3rd of February 2006

He has been the number 1 custodian at Sunshine George Cross ever since and judging by his fine form he looks destined to continue for a long while yet.

Martin John has excelled over the past three season pulling off incredible and spectacular saves as witnessed in Sunshine's last match against Oakleigh last Friday night.

In recognition of this acheivement Martin John will be given a guard of honour and presented with a trophy to mark the occassion.



Sunshine keeper Martin John

#### **New date for Greens v** Bergers

A new date has been announced for the recently postponed Round 8 VPL match between Bentleigh Greens and Heidelberg United to be played.

The match will now take place on Fri July 2 at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, 301 Centre Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham with the seniors kicking off at 8:30pm, and the under 21s kicking off at 6:30pm.

The match was washed out last month after heavy rains fell in Melbourne and the referee deemed the pitch to be

#### **Change of venue** and date for **South v Cannons**

Due to the re-development of Bob Jane Stadium, the highly anticipated South Melbourne v Oakleigh Round 10 VPL match will now be played on Saturday 8th May at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

The seniors match wll kick off at 3pm, and the Under 21s at 1pm.

Both teams have enjoyed a solid to this year's VPL campaign and have shared top spot in the standings over the past fortnight, but after tasting defeat in last weekend's round of matches this local derby provides the perfect opportunity to bounce back.

## Slam dunk for Tony!

Football Federation Victoria Board unanimous on the future of football Federation Victoria Board has held a special board meeting to address issues relating to its Board Charter and Code of Ethics.

The move followed a recent media report which alleged that confidential board information had been disclosed by an FFV Director or Directors, both to the media and the public.

The board meeting, which was attended by all FFV directors, resulted in the following resolutions:

- 1. The Board unanimously passed a vote of confidence in FFV president Tony Dunkerley, and a vote of confidence in the board.
- The Board unanimously endorsed the FFV Board Charter and adherence to that charter.
- 3. It also unanimously endorsed the FFV 2008-2011 Strategic Plan.

Football Federation Victoria chief executive officer Mark Rendell stated the board resolutions confirmed the FFV board was united in its commitment to contributing to the betterment of the sport by delivering on its ambitious strategic plan for the future growth of football across Victoria.

"The resolutions also confirmed that the Board Charter and its Code of Ethics are essential elements in ensuring each Director is duty bound to contribute to the sport and to act in FFV's best interests at all times, while also enabling the opinions of all Directors to be canvassed and robustly debated in the appropriate forum of the boardroom," said Mr Rendell.



## GISS trials for Italy now open

By Louise Brooks

**PRE-SELECTION for 40 Giss Boys** to travel to the Vicenza Calcio Club for football trials in June is now

Paolo Baio, Technical Director and soccer scout for Vicenza Calcio Serie B youth team is the guest of honour at Parkville-based Genova International School of Soccer (GISS) this weekend where players will be put through their paces over a two-day period.

The visit will give an exciting preamble to pre-selection for trials which will be run exclusively for 40 GISS boys to travel to the Vicenza Calcio Club for trials in June, with an unprecedented guarantee that four players will be selected if GISS continues to deliver the quality of players it has to date. The club has signed four GISS players in the past year.

Head coach, Joe De Martino, has also returned from 10 months in north Italy setting up Genova International's latest venture - a residential training program in north Italy. He is back in Melbourne especially to oversee pre-selection of the GISS players to travel to the Vicenza Calcio Club for trials in June.

GISS officially affiliated with Serie B Italian club Vicenza Calcio earlier this year, and Joe says,

"It is an honour for our academy to work in partnership with such a historic and prestigious club which has launched careers of world class players like Roberto Baggio and Paolo Rossi. For Vicenza Calcio to run trials exclusively for GISS members and to select four players for next season will be a dream come true for our boys."

Genova International coach the highly successful local Melbourne Phoenix FC junior teams who finished at the top of their respective ladders last season and will field five teams, two additional ones, for the 2010 season. Melbourne Phoenix Football Club President, Pat Christofi, puts his club's success down to the expert and highly accredited coaching skills of the GISS coaches with a 4 daya-week schedule where players attend as many times as they can or want - which is usually four!

**GISS Graduate Theo Markelis** tours with Under 20s National **Australian Team** 

GISS is starting to produce a crop of well trained graduates who are able to play to the standard required by European clubs.

GISS's proudly points to recent graduate Theo Markelis who has just finished



GISS Director Morris Pagniello (centre) with Vicenza signings Marcel De Bellis, Paolo Rogato, Stephen Masselli and Nick Modafari.

a tour of Argentina with the Under 20s Australian national team.

Current Valencia and GISS Australia 'star' Theo said: "It was a dream come true to represent my country wearing the green and gold, firstly signing in Europe and then the call up from my coach Jan Versleijen. Again, I'd like to thank Morris and GISS for all their help until now and in my future pathway."

GISS Head Coach, Joe De Martino, is also enthusiastic about Genova International's latest venture, a residential training program in North Italy which hosts

many GISS graduates wanting to experience life in the European football arena and which enables footballers to experience playing at levels which will ensure that their skills are improved and benchmarked through high level competition against Serie A, B and C teams, together with opportunities to be seen by scouts. In its first year nine players from the

Italian teams and a Swiss team. For further information regarding the

trials please call 1300 793 505.

program have signed with Serie B and C





### geal we ek ly

#### Reds to face Jeonbuk Motors in ACL

#### Round of 16

Adelaide United FC will host Korean club Jeonbuk Motors in the Round of 16 at Hindmarsh Stadium on Wednesday, May 12 after the final standings of Group F were decided in the closing Match Day of the AFC Champions League 2010 Group Stage.

Jeonbuk Motors will be the Reds' opponents in the one-off sudden death encounter after they finished runners-up of Group F following a 2-1 defeat to Japan's Kashima Antlers in Kashima.

The result sees Kashima cement top spot in Group F, with the J-League club to host reigning ACL champions the Pohang Steelers, who finished runners-up of Group H, in the Round of 16.

Adelaide United secured a home game in the Round of 16 after finishing top of Group H despite going down 1-nil to Shandong Luneng in its final group match

Tickets for the Reds' clash against Jeonbuk Motors are on sale now to Adelaide United 2009/10 members up until 5pm Thursday 29 April before becoming available to the general public from 9am Friday, April 30. Tickets are available through Ticketek (call 132 849, online at www.ticketek.com.au).

Round of 16 Match Details Adelaide United FC v Jeonbuk Motors

Wednesday 12 May 2010 Hindmarsh Stadium Kick-Off 7.30pm (ACST)

## Glory signs Fowler

Perth Glory is thrilled to announce the club has signed super star striker Robbie Fowler for the Hyundai A-League 2010/11 season.

Fowler, a former England international is the fourth highest goal scorer in the history of the English Premier League and known to Liverpool fans across the globe as "God".

"This is vindication that everything we are doing at Perth Glory is on track", beamed Chairman Tony Sage.

"Robbie had a number of clubs chasing his signature, both in the Hyundai A-League and from the Middle-East and we're delighted he's decided to join Perth Glory.

"It's exciting for football fans in Western Australia that a legend has decided to play for us" Sage said.

Fowler joins the Glory after one season in the Hyundai A-League with North Queensland Fury where he scored 9 goals in 26 games.

The 35 year old is the biggest signing in the history of Perth Glory.

"Getting players of this calibre is not easy but it's the commitment I have made to this football club. Now we need our fans and supporters to return the faith by purchasing season memberships.

"We also need strong support from the commercial and business world and it would be remiss of me not to thank those organisations and individuals who have already pledged their support", Sage said.

Fowler will become the Glory's foreign marquee player and the club has now finalised its 23 man squad for the Hyundai A-League 2010/11 season.



Fowler will join his new Perth Glory team mates for pre-season training in

Fowler on the prowl against Sydney FC last season.

## Sony shoots for top with Phoenix

SONY New Zealand's successful partnership with Wellington Phoenix FC will continue in 2010/11, with the electronics giant backing the club as major partner for another season.

For the Hyundai A-League 2010/11 season, the Sony brand will again feature on the front of the Phoenix's bold home and alternate playing strips.

"Last season was an amazing one for the Phoenix and this coming season promises to be even bigger and better," said Sony New Zealand Managing Director Martin McManus.

"We've enjoyed an exciting and beneficial relationship with the Phoenix since coming onboard as principal partner in their inaugural season in 2007. For Sony New Zealand, sponsoring the Wellington Phoenix is about supporting football on our home turf and ensuring Sony and the club continues to lead the way in a code that has taken off spectacularly in this country. This year will be a massive one for football in New Zealand and Sony is looking forward to being there every step of the way."

Mr McManus said the Phoenix had cemented its status as one of the country's marquee sporting organisations on and off the playing field.

"Sony's new make.believe brand values of action, spirit, imagination, design and dream have been clearly demonstrated by Wellington Phoenix FC in all facets of operation. That's what makes this ongoing partnership a perfect fit for Sony and the Phoenix."

### Sarota sad to leave Roar

Parting Brisbane Roar midfielder Adam Sarota has admitted he will miss the Hyundai A-league club when he departs for his new home with Dutch club FC Utrecht.

Signing a three-year deal with the Eredivisie outfit, Sarota arrives early June in the Netherlands to begin pre-season with his new club.

But training with his old team-mates to maintain fitness and form, Sarota spoke of a bittersweet transfer to one of Europe's elite leagues.

"I wanted to stay at the Roar, but at the end of the day it's a better move for me football wise," the 21 year-old said.

"For me to further my football career I have to move overseas and see what happens"

It has been a meteoric rise for the North Queensland-raised Sarota with the former Roar youth league player fighting his way into the senior squad at the back end of last season.

Taking his chance in the Hyundai Aleague with both hands, Sarota now has eyes set on making his name in the cutthroat world of European football.

"When I stop and think about it, it's

really been a crazy year," he said.

"At the start of the year I was only coming off the bench every now and again, but when (Roar coach) Ange Postecoglou came in, I played the last nine or ten games of the season.

"And now I've got this deal in Holland so it's been a very big year for me."

And Sarota contributes much of his successful transfer to his time playing in the Roar's starting line-up.

"I started playing more games, started to get a little bit more confident and I really got used to the A-league standard," he said.

"That really helped me in a big way when I went over to train with FC Utrecht."

However, Sarota will not be leaving the club completely behind with former Roar youngsters Tommy Oar and Michael Zullo also joining the Dutch revolution with FC Utrecht.

"Tommy, Zull's and I will be moving into a house together so that will be good," he said.

"It really helps with them being there so I'm not isolated by myself."

### **Marrone signs with Heart**

Versatile Adelaide United FC utility Michael Marrone is Melbourne bound after signing a two year deal with new Hyundai A-League club Melbourne Heart.

Marrone's move to the Heart comes after he initially agreed to terms with North Queensland Fury in December last year, however with the turmoil surrounding the Townsville based club at the end of last season, in which all player contracts became null and void, the 23 year old decided to continue his career with the new Melbourne franchise.

"I decided to sign with Melbourne because it's a good opportunity, everything coming out of there is pretty positive with the whole setup and the players they're signing, I think they're doing a really good job so far," Marrone said.

Knowing Marrone's contract was coming to an end, United Coach Aurelio Vidmar stated the club had done its upmost to try and hold onto him, but that the defensive midfielder had decided to continue playing elsewhere.

"Obviously we're disappointed to lose Michael," Vidmar said.

"We made our intentions clear to Michael about staying at the club, but he wanted to leave and opted to sign with Melbourne Heart."

Winner of the inaugural Adelaide United National Youth League Most Valuable Player Award, Marrone will leave the Reds with 18 Hyundai A-League appearances to his name, as well as having started in all six of United's Group Stage matches in the club's current AFC Champions League campaign.

Marrone made his debut Adelaide United senior appearance in a 36 minute cameo against African champions Al Ahly at the 2008 FIFA Club World Cup, which he followed with two appearances in the Hyundai A-League 2008/09 Season, before he was rewarded with a senior contract.

From the time he was invited to be part of the Reds' Youth Team in 2008, Marrone is grateful to Adelaide United for the opportunities he has been given.

"When (Reds Youth Coach) Joe Mullen contacted me about the Youth League I was pretty excited and from there I got a chance to play with the first team," Mar-

rone recalls of his time at United.

"This year I reckon I've improved the most out of any year I've played. The coaching staff and the setup here have been excellent, and I've got to thank Aurelio (Vidmar) and Phil (Stubbins) for showing faith and playing me."

"We didn't have the best season in the Hyundai A-League, but on a personal note, getting called up to the Socceroos training camp and being able to play in the Asian Champions League has been brilliant, and hopefully we can get the right result in the Round of 16."

Marrone joins midfielder Kristian Sarkies as the second Reds player to join the new Melbourne club, and Marrone will become a Heart player once the Reds have played their AFC Champions League Round of 16 match against Jeonbuk Motors at Hindmarsh Stadium on Wednesday, May 12.





### geal weekly

## Four suspended as melee mars Copa



Copa Libertadores The South Ameri-

can Football Confederation has suspended four players for their part in a melee at

the end of the 0-0 draw between Lanus of Argentina and Peruvian champions Universitario in the Libertadores Cup. Lanus teenage forward Leandro Diaz sparked the fighting when he kicked Universitario goalkeeper Raul Fernandez during the Group Four match in Buenos Aires 12 days ago in which the Argentine team were eliminated from the knockout phase. The four players, Diaz, Fernandez, Lanus midfielder Agustin Pelletieri and Universitario defender John Galliquio, were suspended for two matches each.

In round of 16 results wrap-up, Thiago Ribeiro's first-half hat-trick guided Brazil's Cruzeiro to a 3-1 first leg win over Nacional of Uruguay on Thursday. Cruzeiro, last year's losing finalist, took the lead in the seventh minute when Ribeiro escaped behind the Nacional defense and slotted through the legs of goalkeeper Rodrigo Munoz. Ribeiro struck his second with a header in the 22nd minute and again found space behind the defense to complete his triple with a low strike from the edge of the box in the 42nd. Mario Regueiro pulled a goal back for Nacional five minutes after half time, but the Uruguayan club faces a difficult task overcoming the deficit in the return leg next Wednesday, May 5.



Thiago Ribeiro's first-half hattrick guided Brazil's Cruzeiro to a 3-1 first leg win over Nacional of Uruguay

Universidad de Chile snatched a 1-0 win away to Alianza Lima in the Peruvian capital coming off from their derby loss to Colo-Colo last weekend with a vital win over their counterparts in another traditional showdown in the rivalry between Peru and Chile with a 86th-minute goal by substitute forward Diego Rivarola in the second match of the night. Rivarola, nicknamed "Goku" from a Japanese anime character beat both Alianza Lima central defenders to the ball when all three went for a punt out of the Chileans' defence and raced into the box to shoot over advancing keeper George Forsyth.

Cruzeiro were the second of the five Brazilian teams in the last 16 to win this week after Flamengo beat fellow Brazilians Corinthians 1-0 with an Adriano penalty at the Maracana on Wednesday. Sao Paulo were held 0-0 by Peruvian champions Universitario away in Lima, while Internacional from Porto Alegre

lost 3-1 to Argentina's current champion Banfield in suburban Buenos Aires.

champion Estudiantes Defending claimed an important away win in Tuesday's first leg of its Copa Libertadores round of 16 clash at Mexico's San Luis, with Leandro Gonzalez giving the Argentines a 1-0 victory. Gonzalez hit a diagonal drive into the roof of the net in the 25th minute for what proved the winner. Gaston Fernandez missed the chance to extend the lead as San Luis goalkeeper Carlos Trejo saved his penalty just before half time. Estudiantes fullback Clemente Rodriguez was sent off after receiving a second yellow card in the 69th minute, but the Argentine club had little difficulty protecting its lead. Estudiantes, currently top of the Argentine league standings, won despite resting six first-team players, including veteran playmaker Juan Sebastian Veron and the Argentine club had little difficulty protecting its lead. The return leg will be played next Wednesday, May 5.In Tuesday's other first-leg clash, Guadalajara salvaged some pride for Mexico with a 3-0 defeat of Argentina's Velez Sarsfield. Estudiantes will host San Luis in the return leg on Wednesday, May 5.

In Tuesday's other match, Omar Bravo scored twice in Chivas' victory over Velez Sarsfield. Bravo dived feet-first at the near post to convert Omar Arellano's right wing cross to give Chivas the lead in the 25th minute. Bravo found himself alone in the box to head the second from a free kick after Velez' offside trap failed in the 78th minute. Velez goalkeeper German Montoya was sent off for bringing down Bravo in the box and Hector Reynoso rammed in the stoppage-time penalty. Guadalajara was missing five first-team players—including recent Manchester United signing Javier Hernandez-because they have been called up to a World Cup training camp with Mexico's national team. Velez is at home against Chivas on Tuesday, May 4.

Guadalajara and San Luis were given byes to the last 16 after being forced to pull out of last year's tournament at the same stage because of the swine flu outbreak. This year, the Copa Libertadores which is Latin America's top-level club tournament will take a break after the quarterfinal stage to make way for the World Cup, with the semifinals and final to be decided in July and August. Estudiantes beat Cruzeiro in last year's final.

Brazil's Sao Paulo finished with 10 men but still held Universitario of Peru to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of the Copa Libertadores last-16 fixture on Wednesday. Richarlyson was sent off for Sao Paulo in the 65th minute but the Brazilian club kept Universitario at bay and will be favorite to progress at home in the return leg next Tuesday.

In a match of few clear-cut chances, Cicinho hit the post for Sao Paulo in the first half, while Rainer Torres had the best opening for Universitario when his shot on the turn was blocked by defender Miranda in the 73rd minute.



BRAZIL
Brazilian club
Fluminense has
hired coach Muricy Ramalho

through to the end of the year. Ramalho replaces coach Cuca, who was fired last week. Ramalho has not coached since being let go by Palmeiras in February.

Ramalho won three straight Brazil-

ian league titles with Sao Paulo from 2006-08. He came close to winning it again with Palmeiras last season, when the team led for much of the competition only to be overhauled near the finish. Fluminense won the Brazilian league in 1984 and the Brazilian Cup in 2007. The team is in the quarterfinals of this season's Brazilian Cup. The Brazilian league does not start until May.



Muricy Ramalho

Down south in Sao Paulo, Wesley scored two second-half goals as Santos rallied to defeat Santo Andre 3-2 in the first leg of the Sao Paulo state championship final on Sunday. Santos can win its 18th state title even if it loses the second leg next weekend by one goal. The team made famous by Pele in the 1960s has the tiebreaker in the two-game final because it had the best campaign in the first stage.

"We have a bigger advantage now going into the second match," Santos right back Leo said. "But Santo Andre showed its strength and we will need to be careful."

Santo Andre opened the scoring at Pacaembu stadium through Bruno Cesar in the 34th minute, but Santos came back with a goal by Andre in the 58th and scores by Wesley in the 62nd and 70th minutes. Rodriguinho hit Santo Andre's second goal in the 83rd. Santos is trying to win its first state title since 2007. while Santo Andre has never won the Sao Paulo tournament. Led by Robinho and young sensations Neymar and Paulo Henrique Ganso, Santos came into Sunday's match heavily favored, but it was Santo Andre which took control early. The small team from the outskirts of Sao Paulo had several dangerous scoring opportunities in the first half, and midfielder Cesar fired a low left-footed shot from a free kick past goalkeeper Felipe.

Santos hit back after the break. Andre, who replaced Neymar at halftime after the 18-year-old striker injured an eye, equalized with a close-range header. Wesley struck from a breakaway just four minutes later with a low shot from inside the area. Wesley scored his second goal in similar fashion, finding the net with another low shot past goalkeeper Julio Cesar. Santo Andre went a man down in the 75th when defender Toninho received his second yellow card, but striker Rodriguinho got the team's second goal eight minutes later after a shot rebounded off the post. "Everybody said they would rout us, but we played well and deserved to have scored even more goals," Cesar said.

Both finals are being played at Sao Paulo's Pacaembu stadium, which on Sunday was packed with about 30,000 Santos fans. Santos came into the two-match final as the favorite after dominating the competition from the beginning,

finishing the first stage 10 points ahead of second-place Santo Andre. Santos is the hottest team in Brazilian football this season, scoring 96 goals in 28 matches, including 59 in its last 12 games. Robinho is back on loan from Manchester City, but all the attention has been on Neymar and Ganso, with fans and local media wanting coach Dunga to select them for the World Cup.

Corinthians, the defending Sao Paulo champion, failed to reach the semifinals despite having striker Ronaldo and veteran left back Roberto Carlos in the team. The Rio de Janeiro state championship ended last week after Botafogo defeated Flamengo 2-1 in the Rio Cup final. Botafogo automatically clinched the overall title because it had also won the Guanabara Cup, the competition's first stage. The Brazilian league starts in two weeks and the state championships are being played across the country.



MEXICO America claimed the final spot in Mexico's Clausura playoffs by

beating Santos 1-0 at Aztec Stadium on Sunday through Angel Reyna's seventh-minute goal. Seven of the eight teams had already qualified before Sunday: defending champion Monterrey, Guadalajara Chivas, Toluca, Pumas, Santos Laguna, Morelia, Pachuca. The quarterfinal playoffs start next weekend in a home and away series.

In the playoffs, it's: Monterrey-Pachuca, Chivas-Morelia, Pumas-Santos and America-Toluca. In other matches Sunday, Toluca defeated Puebla 2-1 and Indios beat Pumas 2-0.

Reyna summed up his winning goal. "Miracles exist," he said. "I lit an extra candle at home and it's thanks to the Virgin of Guadalupe that we will get another chance." Reyna was referring to the country's patron saint, who is widely revered in Mexico and often used as a symbol of the nation. Defending champion Monterrey will be the favorite to win back to back titles, the Rayados having lost only one of 17 matches in the regular season.

Chivas won a record eight consecutive matches to start the season, but won only two more after that. Though Chivas finished second, it has played the last month without five of its top players who are away at a training camp for Mexico's World Cup team. Three players finished equal for the scoring title with 10 goals in the Clausura: Herculez Gomez of Puebla, Javier Hernandez of Chivas and Johan Fano of Atlante. Hernandez has not played for Chivas for a month and Gomez was suspended from Puelba's final match after picking up two yellow cards last weekend. Gomez, who was born in Los Angeles to Mexico-born parents, is the first U.S. player to win or share the regular season scoring title.



ARGENTINA
Godoy Cruz
missed a chance
to go to the top Argentina Clausura

standings by losing 1-0 at Rosario Central on Friday. A victory would have given Godoy Cruz a point clear on top with only two games to play. Instead, Rosario fullback Diego Chitzoff's goal was enough to keep Godoy Cruz on 31, joint third with Independiente, which hosts Boca Juniors on Sunday.

Leaders Estudiantes are away at Chacarita Juniors on Sunday as the club juggles its title bid with Copa Libertadores commitments. Also Sunday, second-placed Argentinos Juniors—a point behind Estudiantes and one ahead of Godoy Cruz and Independiente—is away at San Lorenzo.

In other results on Friday, Racing won 2-1 at Tigre with goals from Claudio Bieler and Lucas Aveldaño while Diego Castaño netted for Tigre under new appointed coach Ricardo Caruso replacing the departed and successful predecessor Diego Cagna to Chile's giant Colo-Colo across the Andes. River Plate got goals from Diego Buonanotte and Paulo Ferrari in a 2-1 home win over Velez Sarsfield capping a week to forget for the once World Club Cup champion from Liniers whose only goal came from Ricardo Álvarez. Gimnasia was held to a scoreless draw at home by Lanús.

On Thursday, Newell's Old Boys won 2-0 at Arsenal, prompting the resignation of Arsenal coach and former Argentina World Cup winner Jorge Burruchaga, a day after the club's sixth straight game without a victory. Burruchaga announced his decision on Friday, and the club immediately appointed the assistant coach Carlos Ruiz as his replacement until the end of the season. Arsenal has 18 points, 15 behind leaders Estudiantes. The club lost 2-0 on Thursday against Newell's Old Boys. Burruchaga is the ninth coach to resign or be fired this season in the Clausura championship of Argentina.



Former Argentina World Cup winner Jorge Burruchaga resigned from the hot-seat at Arsenal after six straight games without a win.

City

## Spurs and City set for showdown

**ENGLAND** Manchester produced a comefrom-behind win over Aston

Villa at the City of Manchester Stadium on Saturday afternoon, despite the absence of first choice keeper Shay Given to a shoulder injury. The win keeps the pressure on Tottenham Hotspur for the elusive Champions League spot.

The win saw City leap-frog Aston Villa into fifth position, who look unlikely to take fourth spot with only one match remaining. With a game in hand over Villa, City must win both games, including the midweek blockbuster against Tottenham, to reach their dream.

John Carew opened the scoring for Villa against the run of play in the 16th minute mark. Stewart Downing put a through a superb ball to the Norwegian striker who tapped the ball past City's replacement keeper, Marton Fulop into the

Throughout the first half, the game was a tug-of-war between the two sides as City searched for a much-needed equaliser. In the last five minutes of the first half, City turned the game on its head. After Carew hit the crossbar from the penalty spot, a swift City counter-attack finished when Adam Johnson was fouled in the penalty box by Villa defender Stephen Warnock. Carlos Tevez stepped up for the spot kick and careered the ball down the middle past Brad Friedel for his 29th of the season

However, the half was not over yet as two minutes later. Johnson cut back a cross to Emmanuel Adebayor for scrambled the ball past a handful of Villa defenders to give City the lead into half

The second half was a tough contest, but City made the most of their attacking runs, with City's Craig Bellamy coming close in the 66th with a super strike denied by the reflexes of Friedel. The game was put to rest in the 89th as City substitute Shaun Wright-Phillips found Bellamy unmarked in the 18 yard box. The cut-back found Bellamy's feet as he steadied and sent the ball into the roof of the net, sealing the victory. However, Tottenham stay one point ahead of City after they produced a 1-0 win over Bolton at White Hart Lane to keep them on track for a Champions League berth. A superb strike from Tom Huddlestone curled outwards into the top right-hand corner past Bolton keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen, who was powerless to prevent it. The win has set up a midweek showdown as Spurs travel to Manchester City where the two sides will face off in a do-or-die fixture to decide who will face the best of Europe in the Champions League.

In other Saturday fixtures Portsmouth defeated Wolverhampton 3-1 at Fratton Park, thanks to goals from Aruna Dindane, John Utaka and Michael Brown. The win puts a smile on the Fratton faithful for perhaps the last time. Birmingham City defeated Burnley at home 2-1 and Stoke saw out a 0-0 fixture. A Phil Jagielka header off a Mikel Arteta corner was ruled out in the 72nd minute after a controversial offside call on Victor An-



A Tom Huddlestone thunderbolt secures Tottenham a nervy 1-0 win over Bolton to take them a step nearer a top-four finish.

ichebe. David Moyes was seen after the match to question Howard Webb's decision, but the draw sees Everton out of Europa League contention despite a tenmatch unbeaten run – a club record.



**SPAIN** 

A Lionel Messi double has seen Barcelona produce a solid 4-1

away victory by Barcelona at Villareal to put pressure on Real Madrid to overcome their rivals in search of their second La Liga title in a

World Player of the Year, Lionel Messi opened the scoring in the 19 minutes in thanks to a defence-splitting through pass from Xavi Hernandez. Messi, on a tight angle, somehow hit the bottom left-hand corner on the inside of the keeper's near post. Xavi Hernandez doubled the visitor's lead in the 34th with a superb free kick that beat the wall as it made the top right-hand corner. Bojan Krkic put the match to rest in the 42nd when he scooped the ball past the defender and sent the ball into the bottom left-hand corner. Messi hit a second two minutes from time to put the title holders four clear at the top for another week. The win put Barcelona four points clear of Real for 24 hours, but if Real defeat Osasuna at the Bernabeu on Sunday they still remain one point adrift with three games to

In other Saturday night matches Zaragoza defeated Deportivo La Corona 1-0 away. Malaga saw out a 1-1 draw with Sporting Gijon, Tenerife defeated Racing Santander 2-1 at home. Vallodolid drew 0-0 with Getafe and Xerez defeated avoid relegation as they get within four points clear of the drop zone, thanks to draws from Vallodolid and Malaga.



**ITALY** 

A 2-1 away win for Roma has resulted in the capital city side taking

top spot of the Italian Serie A from Inter Milan in a frantic title race for the Scudetto.

Roma came into the clash with a game in hand and take the lead of Serie A by a point from Inter. Francesco Totti opened the scoring when Daniele De Rossi put through a superb lob from halfway which Totti controlled, turned and cheekily chipped over the keeper. The Romans sealed the win in the 75th when Totti got the ball and crossed it over the heads of the Parma defence to meet Rodrigo Taddei who headed the ball past the keeper.

Davide Lanzafame scored a consolation goal for Parma with nine minutes to play, but Parma's Luis Antonio Jimenez saw a second yellow in the 89th and was given his marching orders. Roma's win leaves the next move for top spot with Inter on Monday night as they clash with Lazio away at the Stadio Olympico in their quest for back-to-back championships.

In the only other Serie A encounter on Saturday, AC Milan defeated Fiorentina 1-0 away at the Stadio Artemio Franchi thanks to a 78th minute penalty from Ronaldinho. Ten minutes later, Massimo Ambrosini was giving a second yellow and his marching orders, putting a dampener on the win. The win sees Milan likely to hold onto the Champions League spot for the rest of the season, six clear of Palermo with three to play.



**FRANCE** Saturday's top two clash between Auxerre and Marseille produced a

0-0 draw, which was a must win for Auxerre who needed a win for any hope to take the title from the city side. The draw has given Marseille some breathing space with three to play, as they sit five points clear of Auxerre, perhaps sealing the title.

Three midweek clashes in Ligue 1 was lead by a stunning win by Grenoble who thrashed Paris Saint-Germain 4-0 at home. In other matches, Monaco drew with Le Mans 1-1. Valenciennes defeated a demoralised Bordeaux 2-0, who are far out of last year's title-winning form. They are three adrift of fourth placed Montpellier and an opportunity for Champions League football, but with four games to play Bordeaux could steal the spot mathematically if they get back to last year's winning ways

Birmingham 2-1 Burnley Man City 3-1 Aston Villa P'mouth 3-1 Wolves Stoke 0-0 Everton Tottenham 1-0 Bolton

#### SPL

	Р	GD	PTS
Rangers	36	55	86
2 Celtic	36	34	75
B Dundee Utd	36	10	62
1 Motherwell	36	-2	51
5 Hibernian	36	1	50
6 Hearts	36	-10	47
7 St Johnstone	36	-3	46
3 Hamilton	36	-8	45
Aberdeen	36	-16	38
10 St Mirren	36	-12	33
I1 Kilmarnock	36	-23	29
12 Falkirk	36	-26	29

Aberdeen 1-3 Hamilton Celtic 4-0 Motherwell
Dundee Utd 1-2 Rangers Falkirk 1-1 St Mirren
Hibs 1-2 Hearts Kilmarnock 1-2 St Johnstone

#### SERIE A

	Р	GD	PTS
1 Roma	36	24	74
2 Inter Milan	35	37	73
3 AC Milan	36	19	67
4 Sampdoria	35	5	60
5 Palermo	35	10	58
6 Juventus	35	3	54
7 Napoli	35	5	53
8 Genoa	35	-1	48
9 Parma	36	-9	46
10 Fiorentina	36	3	46
11 Chievo	35	-1	44
12 Bari	35	-5	43
13 Cagliari	35	-1	42
14 Udinese	35	-3	42
15 Catania	35	-2	40
16 Lazio	35	-5	40
17 Bologna	35	-13	39
18 Atalanta	35	-13	34
19 Siena	35	-25	30
20 Livorno	35	-28	29

AC Milan 1-0 Fiorentina Parma 1-2 Roma

#### BUNDESLIGA

	P GD PTS	
1 Bayern Munich	33 39 67	
2 Schalke 04	33 22 64	
3 Werder Bremen	33 31 60	
4 Bayer Leverkusen	33 27 58	
5 Borussia Dortmund	33 14 57	
6 VfB Stuttgart	33 10 54	
7 Hamburg	33 15 51	
8 Wolfsburg	33 4 47	
9 Eintracht Frankfurt	33 -5 46	
10 Mainz	33 -6 46	
11 TSG Hoffenheim	33 2 41	
12 Cologne	33 -8 38	
13 Borussia M'gladbach	33 -17 38	
14 SC Freiburg	33 -26 32	
15 Hannover 96	33 -27 30	
16 Nuremberg	33 -27 28	
17 VfL Bochum	33 -28 28	

33 -20 24

#### **LA LIGA**

	P GD PTS
1 Barcelona	35 66 90
2 Real Madrid	34 59 86
3 Valencia	35 18 65
4 Mallorca	34 15 56
5 Sevilla	34 10 54
6 Villarreal	35 1 52
7 Getafe	35 6 51
8 Athletic Bilbao	34 1 50
9 Deportivo	35 -11 44
10 Atletico Madrid	34 -1 43
11 Espanyol	35 -15 41
12 Osasuna	34 -9 39
13 Almeria	35 -13 38
14 Sporting Gijon	35 -13 38
15 Real Zaragoza	35 -18 37
16 Racing	35 -14 36
17 Malaga	35 -5 35
18 Tenerife	35 -30 35
19 Valladolid	35 -20 33
20 Xerez	35 -27 30

Valladolid 0-0 Getafe Xerez 2-1 Almeria

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Serbia
Red Star remain
one point behind
arch rivals Partizan at the top of

the Serbian SuperLiga after both sides easily overcame their opponents. Red Star thrashed Cukaricki 4:0 while Partizan defeated Smederevo away 2:0.

Aleksandar Jevtic was the hero for the red and whites scoring a first half hattrick. After only 10 minutes a Blazic cross was met by Jevtic who rose above the opposing defenders in the box and headed home from 6 metres to net his and the games first goal.

Pavle Ninkov showed off his skill and added another assist for the season, his great ball into Cukaricki's penalty area missed everyone but Jevtic who ran accross behind the defence to score his second after 29 minutes.

Five minutes later another great attack and another goal. Savio recieved the ball from his own half and took the ball all the way to the opponents 16 yard box where he took a shot which Trifunovic managed to get his foot in the way to the home sides advantas as he wrong footed the Cukaricki goalkeeper and Red Star was 3 up

Just before half time Jevtic would get his hattrick, a great way to celebrate his new contract with the club. Ninkov again set up the striker who tapped in from a few yard out. An impressive first half was good enough for Red Star to relax in the second. The only dissapointing factor in the game was the absence of fans as the club is serving a five match ban due to crowd violence.

Partizan remain on top after two second half goals, Cleo opened the scoring from the spot while club legend Sasa Ilic confirmed the win.

Spartak is still looking strong for a Europa League spot after coming out victors in a five goal thriller against relegation battlers Napredak. Vojvodina are losing ground on third and fourth place after only managing a goalless draw against Borac.

Serbia captain Dejan Stankovic will contest his first continental final in more then ten years as his club side Inter Milan overcame defending champions Barcelona 3:2 on aggregate. Deki last played in a final with Lazio in the now defunct Cup Winner Cup and will now be hoping to make it two wins out of two.



Croatia
Dinamo Zagreb
has been crowned
Prva Hrvatska
Nogometna Liga

Champions once more after a goalless draw with arch rivals Hajduk Split. Dinamo celebrations where overshadowed by booing from their fans and crowd trouble as the Bad Blue Boys where involved in a conflict with police.

Dinamo has won the last five Croatian leagues eleven in total confirming their dominance in the country while rivals Hajduk now slip to third position. Hajduk does have a chance to win some silverware when they take in Sibenik in the Cup final.

Ivic Olic scored a fantastic hattrick against Lyon to send Bayern Munich to its first Champions League final in nine years. The enegergetic little battler has performed superbly for the Bavarian club this season.

#### Past Champions of the Croatian League

1991./1992.	Hajduk
1992./1993.	Croatia
1993./1994.	Hajduk
1994./1995.	Hajduk
1995./1996.	Croatia
1996./1997.	Croatia
1997./1998.	Croatia
1998./1999.	Croatia
1999./2000.	Dinamo
2000./2001.	Hajduk
2001./2002.	Zagreb
2002./2003.	Dinamo
2003./2004.	Hajduk

#### **SERBIA**

P GD Pts

	- 1	OD	ı ıs
1. Partizan	27	53:14	69
2. Crvena zvezda	27	51:13	68
<ol><li>OFK Beograd</li></ol>	27	38:29	49
4. Spartak	27	34:24	48
<ol><li>Vojvodina</li></ol>	27	41:26	41
6. Jagodina	26	32:30	36
7. Javor	27	19:20	35
8. Metalac	27	22:33	34
9. Borac	27	19:31	32
10. Smederevo	27	21:28	30
11. Rad	26	30:35	28
12. BSK	27	23:36	26
13. Napredak	27	27:34	25
14. Hajduk	27	24:38	25
15. Cukaricki	27	20:45	25
16. Mladi radnik	27	18:35	25

Hajduk
Dinamo



Bosnia
Zeljeznicar are
sole leaders of
the league after
Borac Banja Luka
failed to follow up

on Zeljos win. Borac lost to Sloboda 2:0 and with four tough games remaing it looks like the trophy will be going to Zeljo.

National team midfielder Miralem Pjanic will not be playing in the Champions League final as his side Lyon was trounced at home by Bayern Munich. Pjanic started the game on the bench and failed to make an impact when he was brought on.

Edin Dzeko continues to give opposing defenders and goalkeepers nightmares after scoring once more for his club Wolfsburg. Dzeko is now the leagues top goalgetter netting 21 goals. It's a matter of time before Dzeko is scoring goals in one of Europes best clubs.

#### **BOSNIA**

		T 15
1Zeljeznicar Sarajevo	26	53
2Borac Banja Luka	26	50
3Siroki Brijeg	26	45
4Zrinjski Mostar	26	42
5Sarajevo	26	42
6Velez Mostar	26	37
7Leotar Trebinje	26	37
8Rudar Prijedor	26	34
9Sloboda Tuzla	26	33
10Travnik	26	33
11Zvijezda Gradacac	25	33
12Slavija Sarajevo	25	32
13Olimpik Sarajevo	25	32
14Celik Zenica	26	29
15Laktasi	25	25
16Modrica Maxima	26	24

In a midweek friendly the Bosnian U/21 side thrashed Turkey 4:1 in a fine display

#### **CROATIA**

	Р	GD	Pts	
1 Dinamo	28	+51	61	
2 Cibalia	28	+23	54	
3 Hajduk	28	+23	52	
4 Šibenik	28	0	47	
5 Karlovac	28	+9	45	
6 Osijek	28	+12	44	
7 Slaven Belupo	28	0	42	
8 Lokomotiva	28	-1	41	
9 Rijeka	28	+5	37	
10 Istra 1961	28	-11	31	
11 Zadar	28	-14	31	
12 Zagreb	28	-6	30	
13 Varteks	28	-9	30	
14 Inter Zaprešic	28	-14	30	
15 Medimurje	28	-25	26	
16 Croatia Sesvete	28	-43	14	

with goals going to Biblija, Dzafic, Mujic and Zahirovic.



Deki v Olic



Dinamo celebrate another title



Hat trick hero Jevtic

Terrace Talk

goalweekly.com



## In 'God' Perth Glory trusts

By Jacob Kagi

The signing of football legend Robbie Fowler could end up the most important moment in Perth Glory's history.

The club is well positioned to end the title drought its endured since the National Soccer League ended and is poised to once again become a big player in the Western Australian sporting market.

Fans in Perth crave success and have been known to jump on a bandwagon, with the job for Glory both on and off the pitch to ensure the setup is right to get the people back.

There is great promise on the pitch with arguably the most complete squad in the A-League. The biggest weakness in the side last season was the lack of a proven goal scorer, but with the signing of Fowler, that should now be a mute point.

Fowler will be well supported by new signing Michael Baird, import Branko Jelic and youngster Andrija Jukic, which should guarantee plenty of goals for Dave Mitchell's side this year.

Glory boasts a strong midfielder with former Socceroos Jacob Burns and Mile Sterjovski the stars, while in defence, Chris Coyne and Andy Todd were superb last season.

Both full back positions are still potential weak spots, but with such an impressive side across the rest of the park, it might not matter.

Off the pitch there was tremendous im-

provement last season, with crowds and Glory's image in the community improving significantly.

More importantly, the club's best home crowd came when Fowler's North Queensland Fury visited in early October, with 12,872 in attendance.

It's not unreasonable to think Perth could average that many of an entire season with Fowler playing, which would make it one of the glamour clubs of the league.

Just a few seasons Glory was on the brink of collapse, with a consortium led by businessman Tony Sage coming in to save the club from potential disaster at the last minute

It took Sage several seasons to live up to his promise of success on the pitch and big name players wearing the Glory shirt, but over the last two years he has delivered that.

Last year he signed Socceroos trio Burns, Sterjovski and Coyne, as well as former English Premier League defender Todd, which was enough to boost crowds and see Glory qualify for the A-League finals for the first time.

At the press conference to announce the signing, Sage said it was exciting for Western Australia.

"This is vindication that everything we are doing at Perth Glory is on track," he said

"Getting players of this calibre is not easy but it's the commitment I have made to this football club. Now we need our

ab's best



Hallelujah! Robbie Fowler heads West and will hopefully provide the divine intervention that Perth Glory fans are yearning for. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

fans and supporters to return the faith by purchasing season memberships."

He has made a massive commitment by handing Fowler a large contract, and it is one the playing and coaching staff need to reward.

It's a move with some risk. If Glory fail to deliver on the pitch this year,

crowds will not increase as Sage expects and he will be forced to reach into his own pocket even further to pay him, and it could be the last time he is willing to

Sage has pulled a coup Glory fans have dreamed of for years, so those fans, as well as sponsors, the players and the coaching staff need to ensure it's worth it.

Regardless, with the signing of Fowler, Glory has what it takes to go a few steps further and bring the A-League trophy to

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

# Ray Baartz, the unluckiest Socceroo

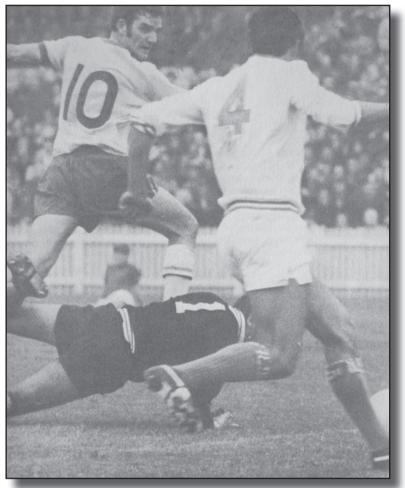
Having helped carry Australia to World Cup qualification in 1974, Ray Baartz was denied the opportunity to play on the world stage by a cruel injury sustained in a friendly match against Uruguay on the eve of the team's departure. Such was his stature and influence on Rale Rasic's team that they insisted he be taken to Germany with the squad even though his career was over.

Born in Newcastle, New South Wales in March 1947, he broke into the Adamstown team as a sixteen year old. He and a slightly older colleague Doug Johns were sent to Old Trafford in 1963, where Matt Busby was rebuilding Manchester United after the Munich air crash. Instead of a three-month trial, Baartz stayed for two years and Busby offered him a contract. But the youngster said he was missing Australia and returned home to join Hakoah in 1966, where he spent the rest of his career. In 236 club games he scored 211 goals, a phenomenal record.

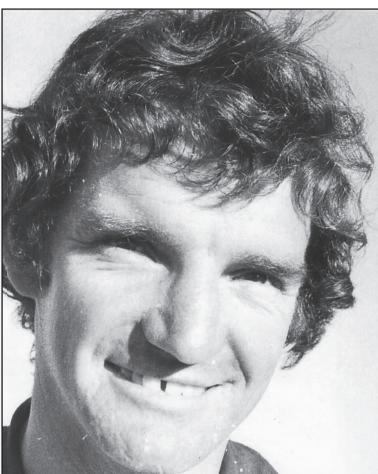
In 1967 he got his first Socceroo cap against Scotland, for whom Alex Ferguson, now manager at Manchester United, played. In the second of a three match series, Baartz scored his first international goal and the only one by Australia against the Scots. Ferguson scored three of Scotland's five in its three victories.

Baartz went on to accumulate 59 caps for Australia in all internationals and scored 21 goals. In the 1969 World Cup qualification campaign he scored critical goals against Japan and South Korea in a triangular tournament in Seoul. That effort to reach the finals came to an end against Israel, but Baartz was now firmly established as a leading figure in the Australian squad. He did not go on the extended world tour which Rale Rasic led in 1970, because of his work commitments, but from 1971 through to 1974 he was a fixture in the national team. In his autobiography Rasic says that had Baartz gone to Germany he would have been vice-captain to Peter Wilson. His toughness was legendary. He dislocated his shoulder in the first qualifying match against South Korea in the world cup qualification on 28 October 1973 in Sydney. The team doctor said he should not play in the return match in Seoul a fortnight later, but Baartz tore off the strapping on his shoulder and played. Not only that but he scored the equalising goal in the two-all draw. According to Rasic it took three deflections on the way in, but it counted.

After Jimmy Mackay scored the critical goal in the third qualifying match, the Socceroos were on their way to Germany. In April 1974 the Australian Soccer Federation organized two warmup games against Uruguay, which had also qualified for the world cup. Though billed as friendlies, they turned out to be something else. The first game at Olympic Park ended scoreless and the teams met again in Sydney on 27 April. Baartz scored the opening goal almost on the hour, but before that he had been brought down by Luis Garisto with what has been described as a karate-chop to



Ray Baartz (left) versus Greece in 1969. Source: Jack Pollard's Soccer Records, compiled by Sid Grant, p. 159.



Ray Baartz. Photo: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

the throat. Later in the game at a corner kick, Garisto punched Baartz and was sent off, but it was the first incident which had been vital. That night Baartz found he could not move his arm, and was quickly taken to hospital and spent two days in a coma. Though he made a full recovery, the doctors told him he could not risk playing again, for another injury could prove fatal. While he was still in hospital his mother died on the way home from visiting him.

So a stellar career in the game came to an abrupt end. Ray Baartz opened a sports store in Newcastle and is still involved today. He helped start Newcastle KB United in the national soccer league. He was inducted into the football and Australian sports halls of fame and remains a key figure in the Socceroos club. Rale Rasic described him simply as 'the greatest footballer I have ever dealt with.'

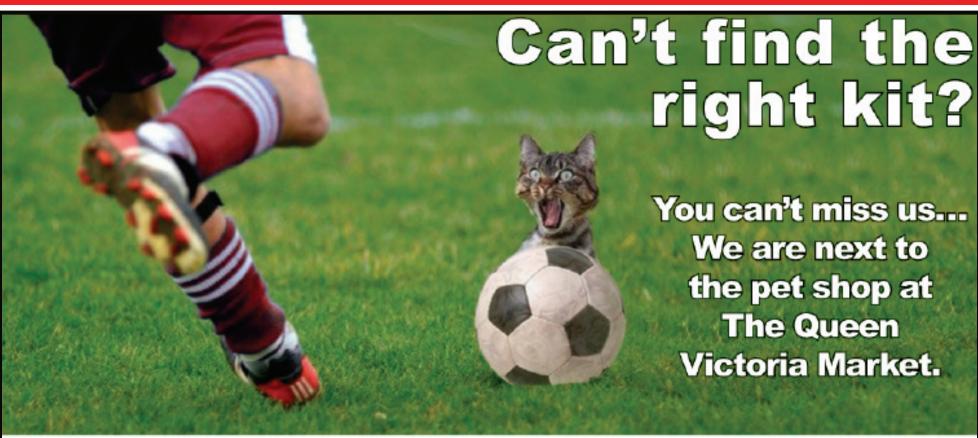




Ray Baartz in action against South Korea in 1973, watched by Adrian Alston (right). Source: Jack Pollard's Soccer Records, compiled by Sid Grant, p. 38.

A flying Ray Baartz and Jimmy Mackay playing Iran in 1973. Source: Neil Montagnana Wallace, Our Socceroos, p. 53.







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### THE KATSA





Big week indeed for the good folk at the FFA, who unveiled to the World, the Socceroos playing strip for the upcoming World Cup Finals.

Now at first glance, I thought that I was looking at the local Primary Schools new outfit for the 7 year old tackers to run around in for their upcoming School

At second glance I did a quick tally of how many J Walkers had been guzzled by me over the last 24 hours, just in case it had affected my judgment.

Then reality set in and I realized that what I saw is what we would all be seeing the Socceroos wearing in South Af-

I think they could have done a touch better, but then again, I am not a pony tailed designer – what do I know?

Interesting scoop that fellow scribe, Craig McKenzie broke last week, about how 3 bad pies spoiled Scotty Webster's Friday Night, and perhaps the entire weekend of last, causing him to miss his game with the Oakleigh Canons.

I am always willing to offer my advice to younger players, after my distinguished 700 game career, 99.9% played in the Ressies against the states finest hacks, and as such, the best pre match meal that worked for me was as follows Please note: pre match means 1 hour before kickoff.

1 Big Mac – hold the pickles 1 small Fries

1 small Fanta followed by a can of V. 2 WN Fields – One straight after the oth-

er, otherwise known as chain smoking. No charge for this dietary advice lads, oh by the way, I forgot the most important ingredient that will have you buzzing for hours when you need it most!

1 x J Walker Red the night before, it's after effects come match day are explo-

The newly formed Melbourne Heart, soon to grace the A-League, are currently scouring the local scene for a few players from the Premier League, so as they can complete their player roster.

Every youngster in the land dreams of becoming a full-time professional footballer, good luck to the trialists, but as a wise man once told me, making it is all about being at the right place at the

However, there is much joy to be had from being at the wrong place at the wrong time, just ask any good Club Powerbroker, they are experts in it!

Over to Katsa's Mailbag we go where this week even I was shocked when I read this letter from Tony of Templestowe.

Dear Katsa

I find myself in a very sticky situation, to say the least.

A few weeks ago, I went out with my team mates to a Club, and I met this gorgeous woman there.

We chatted for a while and everything was going really well, and after a while, she excused herself by telling me that she needed to powder her nose.

As she walked away, I though that I would visit the Gents as the 6 J Walkers that I had drank, needed to find a home away from me.

Nothing could have prepared me from what I saw as I walked into the Gent's Toilets, as the person that I was talking to, the one that I thought was a gorgeous woman, was standing up in front of a urinal and doing what all men do when they are at a urinal.

I quickly ran out, so as she/he didn't see

When she/he returned to our table, she/

he asked me if I wanted to go back to her/his flat.

I made up an excuse not to go for obvious reasons, the problem that I now have is that one of my team mates overheard this conversation and her/his offer, and he told the rest of my team mates that I knocked back a Happy End from the stunner.

They are all now questioning as to which side of the bread I butter, and rumours are rife about this at my Club. What do you suggest I do? Dear Tom.

Sometimes it's better to take a hit, after all, what they don't know about whether you went home with a She/He won't hurt them!

This is Katsa- just as you have known

And remember, keep your friends close and your Club Powerbrokers closer

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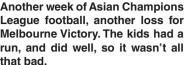
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### BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



At the same time, Melbourne Heart were in action for the first time. Well, mainly a team of triallists, in a game with Whittlesea Zebras at Epping Stadium, which they won 5-1. The details of this game were somewhat sketchy, it seems the FFV website is remaining firmly in the Victory camp. Cameron Watson did well for Heart and scored twice I believe, whilst it was good to hear that Nick Kalambokis got on the scoresheet for Whittlesea.

The Socceroo's kit for the World Cup has been unveiled, and it is pretty uninspiring. It's not as bad as the infamous "Spew Shirt" but at least that had a quirky charm about it. The white band dividing the green of the shoulders and the lower gold portion is ridiculous.

Disappointing that technical issues saw the VPL Live TV Online game of the week between Dandenong Thunder and Green Gully fail to go to air this week. They were also cursed by a washout between Bentleigh and Heidelberg a week earlier

No tribunal issues to discuss this week, as I dealt with some South Melbourne associates myself on Friday night, my threat of "drop that effing ball or I will kick your effing head in" somehow scaring off a couple of young match ball thieves.

South Melbourne have drawn Gombak United in the first round of the Singapore Cup. Gombak, nicknamed the Bulls, were previously known as Redhill Rangers. Which sounds like a good name for a team of Scots on the Mornington Peninsula.

Speaking of Scots, why is Dandenong Thunder's Scott Bulloch being referred to as Scot Bulic on various FFV websites? Is he trying to deny his Scottish heritage and hint at a Balkan connection? With two wins in a row surely the Scots are now back in favour at George Andrews Reserve?

Was an A-League club's apparent interest in signing Ben Cousins similar to South Melbourne recruiting Glenn



Whittlesea's Ricky Spano battles Heart's Sungkil Kim for the ball. PHOTO: COURTSEY STAR NEWS GROUP

Manton to play in goal? Crossing codes is becoming all the rage nowadays, with Karmichael Hunt joining the AFL's Gold Coast team, Israel Folau being linked to rugby union and the AFL and Melbourne Storm players being targeted by

everyone. Everyone except football that is, which is a bit of a surprise because if Billy Slater couldn't be made into a more useful footballer in five minutes than Nick Ward is, I'd be stunned.

#### Pumpkin Seed Eaters show ready to dowmload now!

On this week's show, we preview the upcoming round of 'blockbuster' matches in the VPL, and we have our usual mailbag/media watch segment which, as usual, gives us the opportunity to attack the A-League and highlight its shortcomings. We also head to the most populous region in the world for our Aussie Abroad, and we present a new segment simply titled 'The Rant'; not too much different to our usual rant except for the fact that we discuss football issues that piss us off a little more than usual.

Go to the website below and click on the 'Episode 2' button to the right of screen in order to download the show.

We hope that you are all well and that you enjoy the show.

http://www.pumpkinseedeaters.com/

### KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

#### With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

The talk of the town this week was obviously the two semi finals contested in the Champions League. Bayern Munich showed how far they have come under the guidance of Louise van Gaal and easily accounted for Olympique Lyon to reach their first UCL final since 2001.

Bayern will of course now meet Inter Milan after Jose Mourinho's side outsmarted the defending champions, Barcelona, to also advance to their first final since 1972..

Many will regard Inter's triumph as a stroke of tactical genius which was orchestrated by Mourinho.

Others will call it a victory for antifootball.

There's no denying that Inter were highly organised and disciplined in executing their in defensive duties, which ultimately proved too much for Barca in its bid to overcome the two goal deficit from the 3-1 result recorded at the San Siro the previous week.

In the return leg at the Camp Nou, I was mostly surprised that Barca was unable to unlock the Inter defence.

For all that amount of possession (nearly 80% to 20%), I was expecting Barca to be capable of displaying more wit with the ball in the final third of the pitch.

For all their huffing and puffing, where was that moment of brilliance everyone was waiting for? Or, that touch of genius that their attacks were crying out for?

Barca may well have strung 20 or 30 or 40 passes together at a time, but time and time again there was no cutting edge to their attacks on the Inter goal.

Apart from a few desperate long range shots of frustration, the Inter goalkeeper was never really troubled or tested.

In my opinion, Barca played straight into Inter's hands, and Guardiola needs to shoulder much of the blame for not making changes much earlier in the piece. From a tactical point of view, I'm sorry to say, but Guardiola was sorely left wanting.

It's all well and good to have, what some may consider, the best group of players in the world at your disposal, but every game provides a different challenge depending on the opponent, and Barca were naive to continue playing the way they did for such long periods of the

Ibrahimovic could have played for another two weeks and still wouldn't have got a sniff on goal.

Messi was largely ineffective and because Inter had the measure on him, the Argentinean was missing in action for much of the tie. By denying him time and space to create any worthwhile manoeuvres, Barca was sadly bereft of ideas.

It was only until Bojan was brought on for Ibrahimovic, did a couple of genuine opportunities finally open up for the home side, but by then it was far too

It was noticeable however, that once

the substitution was made, the Inter defence was forced to adjust to a different type of style of player now spearheading the home team's offense. And, it was only until then that Barca's penetration seemed to be finally breaching the Inter

Pique's goal also came after changes were made.

Granted, Bojan's header was a glaring miss and he should have done better to hit the target with such high stakes at risk, but if he was on the park a little earlier, perhaps he also would have been in sync with the rhythm and pace of this high profile encounter and may well have done better with his chance.

The chance Bojan did take in stoppage time was deemed to have been handled as the ball fell to him, but in my opinion Inter was very lucky to be given the benefit of the doubt by the referee.

There's no way in my mind that Barca's Seydou Keita could have got out of the way of the flight of the ball quick enough, as it was booted into his chest from a couple of metres away. Furthermore, I really don't think it actually hit this hand.

Keita's hand might have flown up as an automatic reaction to the impact of being hit by the ball, but I honestly don't believe the ball touched his hand cleanly, or more importantly, nor was it a deliberate act in order to gain a deceitful advantage.

No doubt, the angle the referee had due



Mourinho guilefully steered his troops past Giardiola's Barca.

to his positioning obviously gave him a different perspective on that crucial incident.

Even if it did hit Keita's hand, if that wasn't more 'ball to hand' than "hand to ball', then I don't know what is.

I wanted to have another look at the incident on the excellent video service that SBS incorporates on its website, but interestingly enough, Barca's disallowed goal is not included in the match highlights. No doubt UEFA compiles the footage package which is fed to SBS, but

it seems very strange that one of the key moments of the game is actually omit-

Never the less, credit must go to Inter and their astute coach for masterminding an improbable victory. Nobody can fault their organisation and determination. I dare say however, that from a tactical view point, Bayern Munich coach Louis van Gaal, may well prove to be the master in disguise, and the best is yet to come.

Roll on May 22nd in Madrid.





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### MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

## Not those bloody photos again!

ON 20 MAY a special exhibition of football photography will be held at the National Sports Museum at the MCG and marks long overdue recognition for our game.

It also recognises the work of a number of photographers, principal among them being the great Les Shorrock who turned 89 a fortnight ago.

The exhibition which runs until July centres upon the Les Shorrock Collection at Deakin University in Geelong and Shorrock and wife Eileen have been invited as special guests of the organisers.

The exhibition owes much to the endeavours of National Sports Museum Collections Manager Jed Smith and Goal! Weekly columnist Roy Hay who had discussed such an event for some years. Smith convinced the business school at Deakin to sponsor the exhibition.

Shorrock will have 121 photographs on display split into 11 themes. There also will be 50 of his photographs on a video loop.

I've mentioned Shorrock's collection before in these pages and again I say to you that this body of work is of great historical significance.

The entire collection of football photographs at Deakin (which Hay estimates to be "somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 photos") includes the work of other photographers and also includes photographs that are part of the Laurie Schwab collection. Schwab was the editor of Soccer Action for 10 years and The Age soccer writer for around 30 years until his death in June 1997 at the age of 50.

The Shorrock and Schwab photographs have led a remarkable life and it's time that their strange journey was brought to light.

It all began in April 1987 just a fortnight after the closure of national weekly tabloid Soccer Action. I was its last editor and was called in to the office of Syme Magazines' managing editor Leonard J. Shaw and told to get rid of "those bloody photos."

There was a dump master at the back of our storage room and it was suggested to me that that was the best home for the bloody photos.

But I had other ideas. So did Shorrock who was working as a freelance photographer for The Age.

One Saturday morning those bloody photos were saved from the dump master and rescued by the boot and the back seat of Shorrock's old Volvo, not once but three times if my memory serves me right of all the trips required from Little Lonsdale Street to the Shorrock residence in Caulfield.

Shorrock then embarked on the tedious process of trying to catalogue the collection and a few years later the photos made their way to the then Australian Soccer Federation headquarters in Sydney.

Shorrock had been assured that they would be well received in the Harbour City and that they eventually would go on public display.

Not so. Just over a year later when Shorrock contacted the ASF to enquire as to the whereabouts of his work he was told that the photos had been lost.

Schwab's death prompted a vigorous search for the collection, involving Hay and Schwab's widow, Helen. The pho-







Les Shorrock's award winning 1982 picture of Peter Blasby in full flight for Melbourne Croatia... Les Shorrock, as the fans and players saw him, eyes on the ball, camera at the ready.

tos eventually were traced to a Sydney warehouse and it was then arranged for them to be transported to the offices of the Victorian Soccer Federation.

Again there was talk of putting them on public display but the reality was that they gathered dust in a backroom for some more years before Deakin University's library offered the remarkable collection a long overdue nurturing home.

"I'm really chuffed about this exhibition," said Shorrock. "Not for myself but for the game in general. I think this represents important recognition for our sport which has been pushed into the background for far too long."

And just to prove that the octogenarian had lost none of his spark he offered this observation of a rival code:

"Maybe with Australia applying for the World Cup some people here are starting to realise that soccer is actually worthwhile and substantial. I mean to say, it's not like we could ever hold a World Cup for footy now, could we?"

Shorrock recently bought a new jacket so he'll be dressed to the nines come the opening of the exhibition. Good on you Les. I hope you and Eileen have a superb day.

#### Wee Charlie's off the punt

THE shock news from Kim Reserve is not so much the recent resignation of Altona City legend Nat Little from the role of coaching coordinator.

No, it's the fact that senior coach Charlie Egan has been off the punt for some time. The former Socceroo confirmed as much when we spoke last week and told me what finally ended his profligate days

"I had five dogs going in the last leg of the quaddie so I gave myself a really good chance," Egan said. "But when I didn't even run a place that's when I realised that someone was trying to tell me something."

Egan is in his sixth season with the State Two North-West outfit and readily acknowledges that Altona can't match the money of some of its opponents.

"We played Altona East the other week

and Steve Iosifidis was playing for them. He gets paid more than my entire midfield," said Egan.

"But I'm not complaining. There's a lot of realism at this club and a lot of people who have played the game before and who know the game.

"Our budget is pretty much the same year-in, year-out and it's the strength of our juniors and reserves that keep us in the league. There's an evenness in my squad that some of the richer clubs don't have."

When Egan took over at Altona City the club was bottom of State Three North-West and six weeks away from tumbling into the Provisional League abyss. He averted that fall and got the club promoted the following season.

Egan's squad has taken some heavy injury hits over the past couple of years but he keeps plugging away and "scratching around the lower leagues for players."

This season he has signed six new players: central midfielder Paul Galea, central defender Steve Cudrig and defender Adam Gauci all from Keilor Park, midfielder Jason Hart, striker Ashley Lymn and English midfielder Adam Jocelyn.

"The strength of Altona is that we keep inching forward and we'll eventually get to where we're going."

It's ironic that I should be writing about Egan and Shorrock in the same column given that their careers as photographer and player overlapped but I can't let the chance go to tell a personal story about Egan the player.

In the 1980s he was at the height of his powers, scoring goals and lauded by the fans of South Melbourne Hellas while also cementing a spot in Frank Arok's Socceroo squad.

But Egan decided to retire from international football to concentrate on what he described as his bread and butter – his club contract.

He told Soccer Action stringer Michael Mitten of his intentions one Sunday afternoon after a Hellas game at Middle Park

Mitten phoned me and I phoned Egan straight away. Egan decided to give me an exclusive and I can tell you that next

day, page final for that week's Soccer Action issue, myself and editor Laurie Schwab were pretty pumped.

But news got out and a sports producer from SBS phoned Egan and offered him many thousands of dollars to go on air and make the announcement.

Egan refused because he'd given me his word that the story was ours alone. He received no monetary reward whatsoever as we ran a cheeky Shorrock photo of him on our front page giving a two-fingered salute (to celebrate a goalscoring double for Hellas) with the banner headline announcing his shock Socceroo departure.



One from the sports vault....
The 'Soccer Action' issue from 1985 featuring the Charlie Egan exclusive.

#### Langy's keeper crisis

STATE One outfit Langwarrin has its fingers crossed that Football Federation Victoria will give it permission to sign goalkeeper Jason

The club's main custodian, Chris

Jones, strained a medial ligament just over a fortnight back which meant that 17-year-old Nick Thomas was promoted to the first team to face Clifton Hill in a round three clash at Lawton Park.

His replacement in the under-21s was Sean Skelly who had not played a competitive game for two years.

Thomas was acquitting himself well until clashing with a Clifton Hill striker. The teenager was stretchered off just before half-time with badly damaged ankle ligaments and was replaced by Skelly.

Yesterday against Whittlesea at Epping Stadium, Skelly again was in the first team goal with 15-year-old Daniel Goodes in the under-21s.

bench no doubt praying that Skelly would get through the contest unscathed. "There's no way I could put a 15-year-

A far from fit Jones sat on the first team

"There's no way I could put a 15-yearold on the bench for the first team," said senior coach Gus Macleod.

"I'd like to know at what age does it become a duty of care issue? Can anyone tell me?"

Well I can't answer that one, Gus. I'm still scratching my head at an FFV decision to disallow the signing of goal-keepers outside the transfer windows and forcing clubs to name four keepers before the season starts.

But Macleod understands why the federation took this action.

"It's no secret that certain clubs signed certain players after the deadline supposedly as replacement goalkeepers then played them out on the park," he said.

"That's why the four-goalkeeper rule came in and I can understand where the federation is coming from."

But that won't help his club's plight unless FFV grants special permission for Macleod to sign Dastey.

Permission recently was granted for Victorian Premier League outfit Oakleigh Cannons to sign keeper Griffin McMaster from Brisbane Roar outside the transfer window and Langy is hoping for a similar outcome in its application to FFV.

## Scoring goals with Golgol

By Kieran Pender

When Golgol Mebrahtu stepped out onto the pitch at Members Equity Stadium in Perth it marked the end of a remarkable journey that had taken him from Eritrea to Australia and finally to an A-League contract with Gold Coast United. But his debut was just the first step on his journey to hopefully represent Australia at the 2012 Olympics.

Mebrahtu's fairytale football story started when he was spotted by Gold Coast manager Miron Bleiberg while playing football on a Brisbane pitch. Impressed by what he saw, Bleiberg suggested Mebrahtu attend trials, and a few months later he signed for Gold

Stepping up from the Brisbane Strikers to an A-League team was a huge step, and Golgol was initially nervous, but he soon settled in. Recalling the transition, Mebrahtu says, "I knew it would be a big step and I was nervous when I saw the likes of Michael Thwaite and Shane Smeltz at training, but after a couple of weeks I got used to it and really settled in well."

Mebrahtu had started playing football while still living in Africa, but didn't have much time to play. "There was little in the way of organized football for us kids to play and my family were very focused on education, so most of our time was spent learning more academic things. Occasionally a bunch of kids from the neighbourhood would gather together for a kick-about, but that was about it.''

But a move to Australia when he was ten changed this, and shortly after he was turning out at under eleven level for Brisbane Olympic. Not long after this he was kicking the ball around regularly and playing whenever he could.

"I started just kicking a ball around and watching football when I could. I played under 11s at Brisbane Olympic and just loved it. When I entered high school I was lucky enough to get some private football training and after that I seemed to develop rapidly and my passion grew at the same rate. That's when I decided that I wanted to become a pro if I got the chance."

The move to Australia came as his Christian family fled religious persecution in predominantly Muslim Sudan. While he initially had some issues adapting, he is now well settled in Aus-

"I was still very young then, but of course you do notice some of the cultural differences and naturally the language was an issue initially. I now have an Aussie accent though because all my friends were Australian when I was growing up. Coming here so young helped a lot and adapting to life in Australia was never a problem for me or my

Although Mebrahtu does still miss



Gol by name, goal by nature: Gold Coast United's Golgol Mehbrahtu holds off Melbourne Victory's Matthew Kemp during an A-league stoush last season.

Eritrea (his country of birth) and Sudan (where he grew up), he is certainly loving life in Australia. "I do a little, yeah. Mainly for family reasons, but having said that I love it here. Hopefully, sometime in the not too distant future I will be able to go back for a visit.'

While he was born in Eritrea, Mebrahtu holds Australian citizenship, and will be hoping to represent Australia at international level. "Australia has presented my family with a great opportunity to enjoy life here and nothing would make me prouder to represent

Unfortunately for Mebrahtu, his debut A-League season was marred by injury. "It was difficult for me personally because of the injuries I had and that was a new experience. I had a really good pre-season but after that I struggled for consistency because I had these niggling injuries all the time. There were still lots of positives though because I ended up playing in six first team games and really enjoyed the season despite some of the setbacks."

He will however always remember his debut game, a two-all draw with Perth Glory. "I recall we were losing 2-1 at the time and I was a little nervous because the game was very tight."

"There was a lot of intensity because we were pushing for the equaliser, so

when Shane (Smeltz) knocked in that late goal we were all delighted - it was a great experience; a bit surreal. It doesn't matter how long I play for that is always going to be my first match, so it was a big moment for me.'

Mebrahtu also enjoyed his debut season in the National Youth League, and had an important role in the Gold Coast United team that went onto win the NYL final. "Mike Mulvey (Gold Coast's vouth coach) knew all along that we had the players to do really well and everyone improved over the season."

"With Mike's guidance we were confident that we could achieve something special and I don't think anyone at the

club was overly surprised that we made a success of the season. There are some very good players in our Youth Team and everyone worked hard to create the opportunity for us to succeed."

Although being part of a relatively successful season, Mebrahtu is already planning for next season. "I want to be injury free and have a really good preseason to set myself up for the year ahead. I want to establish myself as a Hyundai A-League player by making more appearances for the first team and just take it from there. To stay injury free and score a few goals would be

One benefit of playing for an A-League club is the calibre of players Mebrahtu trains alongside every day. Gold Coast United's marquee, Jason Culina, is a regular Socceroo who has played at the top level for clubs such as Ajax, FC Twente and PSV.

"Just being around a winner like Jason is amazing. He gives 100% at every training session and in every game, so it's not hard to see why he's been so successful. He's going to the World Cup again this year and that pretty much says it all about Jason - he's the ultimate professional."

It may be more than two years away, but Mebrahtu is already dreaming of playing for the Olyroos at London 2012. "I'm going to be doing everything I can to prove that I'm good enough to make the next U23 squad that will go to the Olympic Games. Whether it comes off or not is another thing, but that's what my immediate focus is regarding the national team."

Finally, when asked about the players he looks up to, Mebrahtu names two of the greatest players from the last decade. "I have always been a big fan of Thierry Henry - he's just amazing. Ronaldinho is another player I look up to and you can only dream of being as good as them. '

"I try to look at their style though because I like the way they play the game. I like to play on the ground and take people on, so those two are the ones I look at for tips, etc." Maybe one day young strikers around the world will be looking up to Mebrahtu.

Golgol Mebrahtu's story is one that will fill many young footballers around Australia with hope, and while he may have only just started his journey to football stardom, Mebrahtu has a few words for them. "You have to work hard and persevere. If you have belief in your ability and do the work then the opportunity will come. Football is like a lot of things - you get out of it what you're prepared to put into it."

Thanks to Golgol Mebrahtu for the interview and Gold Coast United media manager Neil Favager for his assistance.

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### LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson

## **Fulham: From Cottage To Penthouse**

By Leroy Robinson

What do Birmingham, West Ham, West Brom, Wigan, Wolves, Bolton, Stoke and Blackburn have in

They should, by the time this article comes out, have been on the phone to Roy Hodgson and Mohammed Al-Fayed to ask them what Fulham's secret is. Any small club in the EPL, and by small I mean clubs with capacities fewer than 35,000, would be proud of Fulham's achievements this season -in the final of the Europa Cup and 12th in the league. Fulham should be the blueprint for small clubs going forward.

Fulham are a family club. Last year saw the fewest arrests at Fulham games than anywhere within the EPL. A policeman assigned to a Fulham game may as well treat it as a day off. They are also one of the few clubs I know with a neutral section, an area for both home and away fans.

When Roy Hodgson took over at Fulham in 2008 it showed how far he'd fallen. This is no disrespect to the Cottagers but here was a manager who'd taken over at Blackburn when they were still expected to get into Europe and who coached, albeit briefly, at Inter Milan. At the time Fulham were a club whose only ambition was to finish 17th in the EPL because when Hodgson took over they were doomed. Yet they produced a series of stunning results and against the odds stayed up. You could argue that Roy has performed miracles ever since.

Hodgson would no doubt like more money to spend on the squad and yes he'd love a bigger ground but it is what it is and rather than constantly trying to put pressure on the chairman he gets on with his job, working on the things he can control.

It isn't disparaging to say that in Fulham Hodgson has found his level. Inter were too big, Blackburn too ambitious for their size whereas Fulham were like the porridge in Goldilocks; just right. Though there's talk of him taking the England job if Capello gets tired of £6million a year I don't think he's cut out for it. One of the things that suit him is the lack of expectation at Fulham and going from that straight to the England job would be like taking your baby off the breast and giving it steak and chips. It's just too much for Roy to handle in my opinion. Also he comes across as a really nice guy and I wouldn't want the same brutal treatment of him that happened to Sir Bobby Robson. Of course he'd take the job, but I hope the FA keep Capello and leave Roy at Fulham.

You can understand why he'd be in consideration. Paris Hilton spends more



Two men who have helped put the "F" back into Fulham. International managerial journeyman, Roy Hodgson, and tycoon extrodinaire, Mohammed Al-Fayed.

on clothes than Fulham do on transfers and yet they've managed over the last few years to take an unfashionable team with very few household names all the way to Hamburg.

So why are things cruising along nicely for the little club by the river Thames, while for teams like Hull, Portsmouth and West Ham things are going so wrong?

Mohammed Al-Fayed owns Harrods and is known for his campaign to find out what happened to his son Dodi and Princess Diana when their car crashed in Paris in 1997, the same year he bought Fulham. Fayed paid the clubs' debts and promised a return to the top flight within 5 years; they made it in 4. For this reason alone Al-Fayed is perhaps the best-loved owner in the EPL. The difference between Al-Fayed and other owners is that during his time he has put money into the club, developing a state of the art training ground in Surrey and renovating the oldest football ground in London. He also communicates with the fans. In this age of foreign owners treating fans like vampires treat garlic this is

Perhaps due to the circumstances under which he took charge Al-Fayed has run Fulham like a business, always making sure they lived within their means rather than borrowing to capture success. Unlike some clubs, who'll move heaven and earth to keep players, if Fulham get a decent offer (as they did for Chris Small-

ing from Man Utd) and will sell. The fans accept this, the players accept this and so does the manager. It was strange and encouraging hearing the cheers for Chris Smalling the game after his move was announced.

This attitude sums up Fulham. They know their place. The problems from Hull and Portsmouth all arose because they didn't realise they were Hull and Portsmouth. They were small fish in a big pond and flashing borrowed money doesn't make you a bigger player, it just attracts sharks after your cash.

#### Surely even Fulham spend money?

Now I'm all for spending money on players. Yet with some clubs you wonder if there is any logic in their purchases. Just this week West Ham bid for a player – Graham Dorrens – and their coach didn't even know about it! Can you imagine Fulham doing that? They are never going to be big spenders with an abundance of talent so when their £10million record signing – Andrew Johnson – went down with an injury it looked to scupper any hopes they had of repeating last season's 7th place.

That they haven't been quite up to par this term is more down to the form of Spurs and Man City, 2 of the teams they finished above last year, as well as the European run. Yet one of the strengths of the squad is that Hodgson has mostly experienced players of 28 and over. The best player this season by a long way has been Bobby Zamora, a £5million signing from Spurs. What Hodgson does is sign experienced premier league players who are unwanted but fit into his 4-4-2 or 4-4-1-1 formation. He doesn't buy players because they are available on a free or because they are flavour of the month. There is a clear plan which is dictated by the way he likes his teams to play. None of their players will ever win player of the year. They are solid professionals who've played at Premier League level before and whose stock, but not necessarily ability, was on the decline when he signed them.

Hogdson's strength is keeping things simple. He gives players a role and asks them to stick to it. One thing he does very well is buy players to fit positions. You'll rarely find him putting square pegs in round holes and when changes are made to the team it is more often than not likefor-like changes – so no Mascherano at right-back or Glen Johnson at left-back for him!

Every squad could do with strengthening but Hodgson, when asked before the Europa Cup game about the squad merely said he'd like to have the money to strengthen the squad, if there's money available. No demands, no griping, just a polite request. Yet you can be guaranteed when he does strengthen it'll be with experienced players who are solid and not spectacular. Hodgson likes to know what he's getting week in week out because at a club like Fulham you can't afford to carry any passengers.

like Birmingham who apparently have a fortune to spend, should take note of is Hodgson doesn't make wholesale changes to the team in the offseason. He'll generally improve it with a player here or there. Partly this is because of finances being tight at the club but don't underestimate the unsettling effect many changes have. You only have to look at Man City when Hughes started spending to know that team chemistry can be severely affected by too many changes - they finished 9th after their spending spree last season. The rules change somewhat for promoted clubs but there's something to be said for giving players who got you into the big time the chance to perform. Wolves and Birmingham managed to stay up with the core of the teams that got them promoted and though Newcastle and West Brom will strengthen I'll be watching carefully at the quantity and quality of their sign-

The biggest thing about Fulham, as I've stated, is they know their place. Knowing your place means remembering that the free transfer you're signing isn't really free sometimes. There are agents fees, the extra signing bonus a 'free' transfer might expect and the extra wages they might expect due to the lack of a transfer fee. It also means thinking in advance about whether these types of players will affect team chemistry. It also means steady growth, keeping a lid on wages, selling the right players at the right time, (Jimmy Bullard springs to mind) promoting youngsters from within and scouting effectively abroad. It means not giving in to the impatience of trying to 'live the dream' by spending now and paying the price later. That doesn't mean putting a lid on ambition, it means expecting to survive but having contingencies for life after the EPL.

Yet, playing at Craven Cottage, there will always be a ceiling on how far Fulham can go. I can't see them ever getting into the UCL and with such a small ground life in the top flight will continue to be a treadmill of making ends meet and selling the best players. Of course Roy won't be there forever and one day the fight will end in relegation. As long as fans are pragmatic enough to cope with that then Fulham will be fine.

In a week when West Ham put their entire first team up for sale, (minus Scott Parker) and it was revealed that the premier league average wage is £1.5million a year, more clubs need to do things the Fulham way. Al-Fayed may own Harrods but I suggest come the summer the clubs I mentioned shop somewhere more downmarket to make their purchases.

SOURCES: www.fulhamfc.com

### IN OFF THE POST

Got something to say? Drop us a line and get it off your chest. Best letter wins double movie pass to Palace Cinemas.

mailbag@goalweekly.com



Dear Editor

Another interesting report in Goal Weekly about Slavia. I can well remember them. Also some of the names in the report, Lou Ivanoff, Jim Train, Jim Tansey, Ian Humble, Steve McCombe. They were all playing when I was a referee. Jim Tansey and I once did a trophy presentation at Hampton Park junior soccer club back in the 1970s. Jim also went to play at Seaford, when my son was in the team. Steve McCombe.

I can remember him being the captain at Croydon when they were a top team. Ian Humble was at Doncaster during his young days. He had two brothers, Keith and Andy. The photo of Gary Cole on crutches. We referees had a nickname for him, Nat King Cole. He used to sing a lot but never did much on the field.

After watching the game on SBS this morning, Inter v Barca, I will take Inter to win the Cup.

I took a trip to watch Banyule versus

Whittlesea Rangers. It finished 2–4. We used to live in Greensborough before moving to Hampton Park. Banyule used to be Rosanna. That is the team my two boys played for when we first arrived in this country, so I saw a couple of old friends there, but I can't see the team staying in North West Division Two. They only came up last season.

Best wishes **Derek Gardner, Hampton Park** 



every Monday.



### LONDON CALLING



With Adam North

# The biggest financial prize in world football

Last week in this very column I pointed out that the amount of money floating around in English football, especially in the Premier League, is increasing with every year that passes. And just in case you don't believe me, let me tell you that promotion from the Championship to the Premier League this year could benefit a club by as much as £90 million pounds. And that's quite a lot of money.

A company of financial analysts, Deliotte, has this week stated that any team promoted into the top division of English football benefits from at least £40 million addition revenue during their season in the top flight, mainly achieved through larger television deals, more commercial income and higher gate receipts. And even if such a club is relegated in it's first season, it will receive approximately £45 million in parachute payments over the next four years.

These figures show exactly why so many teams are willing to risk their whole existence just to enter the Premier League. In a classic example of risk and reward, many clubs are trying everything they can to top the Championship table, even if it means near bankrupting themselves to attain promotion. And the figures being quoted also show why the Championship play-off final is generally considered to be the 'richest game in world football'.

So which teams have already gained promotion from the Championship this season, and which teams still have a shot at taking part in the winner takes all showdown known as the Championship play-off final at Wembley?

The two teams that have finished in first and second position respectively in the Championship this season are Newcastle and West Bromwich Albion. These are two teams with Premier League experience, although quite obviously one has much more than the other.

Newcastle United are one of the bigger, and one of the most well-respected and liked clubs in English football. They have played in nearly every season that the Premier League has existed for, and their relegation last year was devastating for the Toon Army. Before a ball was kicked this season they were favourites



Newcastle United and West Bromwich Albion make a return to the EPL next season, and with it can expect a huge windfall of at least 40 million pounds.

to be promoted, which they have accomplished in style, and in truth as many people predicted they were the class of the division this season and fully deserved to win the Championship crown.

The main reason that Newcastle have had such a good season, apart from the fact that their fans have once again been immense in their support for their black and white striped heroes, is that as a club they have retained much of their squad that they had whilst in the Premier League. Names such as Fabricio Coloccini, Kevin Nolan, Joey Barton and Alan Smith could all have easily demanded a move away, and they could all have played for teams in the top flight of English football. And yet, in the same way that just being a fan of the club demands the kind of loyalty which means taking off your shirt in freezing weather to prove how much you love the club, the players have bought into helping the club out of a position they should never

have been in.

Newcastle have also had one of the players of the season in Jonas Gutierrez, a man who is adored by the greatest ever player, Maradona. For an Argentinean international like Gutierrez to stay with the Magpies during such a difficult time is a credit to himself and to the club as a whole.

And I'm going to suggest that Newcastle will be able to stay in the Premier League next season. They still have a decent squad that could compete at the top flight level, and they should have the finances to purchase players in any position that they are weaker in. My only worry for them next season is that their manager, Chris Hughton, has never excelled at Premier League level, and if the team get off to a bad start he could be on his way before Santa Claus comes to toon.

West Brom are what most people would deem a 'yo-yo' team, in that often

they are one of the best three teams in the Championship, but also one of the worst three teams in the Premier League, which means that in the last few seasons they have gone up and down the leagues like, yes that's right, a yo-yo.

If Newcastle were the best team this season, then West Brom were definitely the second best. Much like the Magpies, the Baggies have retained much of their Premier League squad, and their comeback to the Premier League looked oddson from the start of the league season. They have once again proved that they are a club too good for the Championship, and they have not only excelled from a results standpoint, but have also played the most attractive football throughout the division.

Looking at their squad I do worry that next season they may struggle to score goals, which could lead to yet another relegation. However, I do have confidence that their manager, Roberto Di Matteo, could make some cunning purchases over the summer to help his team stay in the top flight. I really do hope that the Baggies can continue playing some good football next season, and I hope they stay up, perhaps only so we can see Di Matteo grace the touchline in his expensive, and I must say rather nice, suits.

As always the third promotion spot will be taken by the winners of the Championship play-offs. Currently three teams are definitely in the play-offs, Nottingham Forest, Cardiff City and Leicester City, with Blackpool and Swansea City fighting over the last remaining spot. Of all five teams, the one I would like to see in the Premier League next season would be former European Cup winners Nottingham Forest, as not only are they a club with an interesting history but also they play some attractive football. Then again it would certainly be interesting to see a Championship play-off final at the home of English football Wembley Stadium, where the winner goes into the English Premier League, being contested by two teams from Wales. A Welsh team in the Premier League will happen sooner or later, and if there are two Welsh teams in the play-offs then there is obviously a distinct possibility that this could be the year that Wales invades English football at the top level.

Ultimately, whichever team of the five gets promoted, they'll be favourites to be relegated next season, as none seem to have the squad, or the financial muscle to compete in the top flight, although that is not to say that they don't have a chance. For my money Wolves have been the worst team in the Premier League this season, and yet they have managed to avoid relegation. Basically any team, given that they make the right acquisitions, and they get a little bit of luck along the way, can make it in the Premier League.

And as the song goes, if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. Although the song may have been referring to New York City and not the English Premiership. What is for certain is that from a financial standpoint, promotion into the Premier League may be the biggest financial prize in world football.







40th Anniversary Gala Ball

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2010

San Remo Ballroom Nicholson St Carlton

Tickets: \$60 Adults & \$30 Children

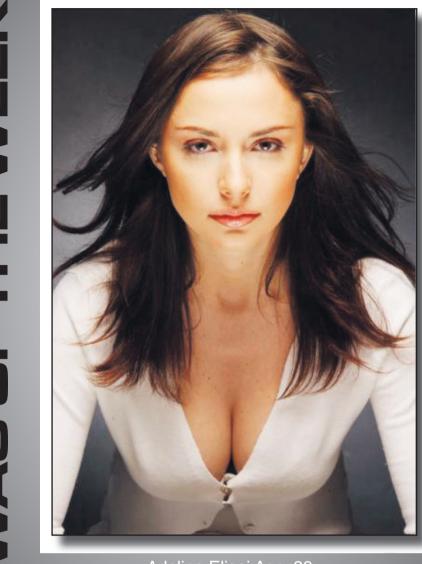
Featuring the band STROFES specializing in

English, Latin and Greek music

Special Guests & Awards

Contact: Events Coordinator Helen Singarella 0439 203 933





Adelina Elisei Age: 29 InSignificant Other: Inter Milan defender Christian Chivu



#### COUCH POTATO DEPT.

ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

#### SETANTA SPORTS

#### Monday 3rd May

7:15am Ligue 1 Montpellier vs Lyon

#### Wednesday 5th May

4:40am SPL Old Firm Derby - Celtic vs Rangers LIVE 8:30am Copa Libertadores Sao Paulo vs

3pm J-League Urawa Reds vs Nagoya Grampus LIVE

#### Thursday 6th May

Universitario LIVE

4:40am Coppa Italia Final Inter vs Roma LIVE

8:30am Copa Libertadores Estudiantes vs San Luis LIVE

10:45am Copa Libertadores Corinthians vs

Flamengo LIVE 1:15pm SPL Motherwell vs Hibernian 3pm SPL Hamilton vs St Mirren

8:10pm Russian Premier League Rubin Kazan vs Sibir LIVE 10:15pm Ligue 1 Lyon vs Auxerre

#### Friday 7th May

12:40am Russian Premier League Zenit St Petersburg vs Spartak Nalchik LIVE 2:45am Ligue 1 Marseille vs Rennes 4:30am Ligue 1 Boulogne vs St Etienne 8:30am Copa Libertadores Internacional vs Banfield LIVE

Saturday 8th May 9:30pm SPL Teams TBC LIVE

11:30pm Bundesliga Teams TBC LIVE

#### Sunday 9th May 5am TBC LIVE

10:30pm SPL Teams TBC LIVE

#### Wednesday 12th May

8:45am Copa Libertadores Teams TBC

#### Thursday 13th May

8:45am Copa Libertadores Teams TBC



The Futbol Town Show Every Monday 7pm

**Extra Time Magazine Show** Every Wednesday 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show Every Saturday 10.30am





SBS ONE

#### Sunday May 9th 3:00 pm Football Asia

3:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine Program 4:00 pm Les Murray's Football Feature: Coppa Italia Final 2009/2010

5:00 pm The World Game 6:00 pm Road to the 2010 FIFA World Cup - This episode looks at the

chances of Serbia and New Zealand at the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final

Thursday 13 May WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHEDULE

2.00am UEFA Europa League Final - Live from Hamburg, Germany.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN & NT SCHEDULE

3.30am UEFA Europa League Final - Live from Hamburg, Germany.

#### New Time 4.00am UEFA Europa League Final - Live from Hamburg, Germany.

EASTERN STATES SCHEDULE

**Thursday May 13th** 10:00 pm UEFA Europa League Final 2009/2010

Saturday May 15th
5:30 pm Road to the 2010 FIFA World Cup - This episode looks at the
chances of France and the USA at the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final.
6:00 pmRoad to the 2010 FIFA World Cup - This episode looks at the
chances of Italy and Australia at the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final.
10:30 pm 2010 FA Cup Final - Chelsea v Portsmouth. Live from Wembley

goalweekly.com



#### **WEEK 39**

Final Day Of Season All games kick-off at 1.00 am EST.

Mon May 10 Teams TBA 12.55 am (Fox 1)

Mon May 10 Teams TBA 12.55 am Viewers Choice Mon May 10 Teams TBA 12.55 am Viewers Choice

Mon May 10 Teams TBA 12.55 am Viewers Choice

Mon May 10 Teams TBA 12.55 am Viewers Choice



#### Monday 03rd May 2010

10:30 pm World Football News 11:30 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights 12:30 am The Serie A Highlights Show

Tuesday 04th May 2010 06:00 am Serie A (Rpt)

Wednesday 05th May 2010 03:45 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) 03:30 pm Bundesliga (Rpt)

#### Thursday 06th May 2010

03:30 pm Serie A (Rpt)
05:30 pm The Serie A HighlightsShow (Rpt)

Friday 07th May 2010 10:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)

Sunday 09th May 2010

01:35 am Bundesliga





## One return flight to the World Cup please!

Forget about the likes of Harry Kewell, Tim Cahill, Mark Bresciano, Vince Grella, Brett Emerton, Craig Moore and Lucas Neill being the Socceroos most important players at the World Cup.

The first 11 picks themselves and if any of the above players that I mentioned are fit or near it on June 14 they will be shaking hands with German players on the 14th of June while under their breath saying "wir sind dabei, Ihren ausgezeichneten englischen sprechenden deutschen Arsch zu kicken" which roughly translates to "we're going to kick your excellent English speaking German arse".

The most important Socceroos that will be picked in the 23 man squad will be the next 11. The reason I say this rather daft comment is that nine of the potential first 11 will be over 30 years old. Only Jason Culina and Luke Wilkshire are in their 20's. There are five days between games during the group stage and I don't really think everyone in the first team will be able to play every minute of the Aussies three group games.

Below are the key players for the Socceroos who I think will struggle the most. I have included a games/ goals comparison during the season passed and a comparison of the 05/06 season which preceded the Germany 06 campaign. Their potential understudy's also are included and it also includes a comparison of age and games played during this season.

#### Harry Kewell

Harry was on fire until his recent groin injury derailed his recent good form. The backup plan is not Tommy Oar it's Nikita Rukavystya. The former Perth Glory Striker has been playing regularly of late scoring 4 goals in 8 appearances for Belgian Club Rosalre. On his day he can open defences and score goals. If he is not on his day he can be caught offside and miss chances which Fox Sports commentator Robbie Slater would say "he should've done better". No shit Sherlock! James Troisi is another candidate that could be chosen as back up but Pim has not picked him for a while.

Tim Cahill is the fitter and the most inform of the all the key players but will he be able to last all the three games? With the amount of running and the expectation that every team he plays against will double team him our little Timmy soldier will have an extra burden in this World Cup campaign to deliver again. If Nick Carle makes the plane to South Africa it will at least mute some members of the media who have taken on his bidding probably to the detriment of the player. His performance against Japan in the final World Cup Qualifying game could get him on the plane to South Africa.

#### Mark Bresciano

By his standard Mark did not have the best World Cup in Germany. He is probably the biggest injury concern behind Harry Kewell. Brett Holman could see more game time at this World Cup than he and even the fans expect. Brett Holman is a favourite of Pim and his experience in the Socceroos qualifying campaign should see him on the plane. I will cross my fingers and hope he plays above himself, but I doubt it.

#### Vince Grella

The Socceroos midfield enforcer is struggling to get on the park let alone get a full game. His move to Blackburn has been littered with injuries. Mile Jedinak has had an excellent season scoring goals and playing full games. I expect to see him get some decent game time in Germany if Grella struggles. I think Mile has overtaken Carl Valeri in the pecking order due to his excellent season with Turkish club Antalyaspor however I expect both should be going to South Africa.

#### **Brett Emerton**

Brett Emerton is arguably Australia's fittest player and he is a key element of the Socceroos squad. Pim used Brett as a right midfielder/winger in his famous 4-2-3-1. Dario Vidosic moved to a second division German side to get more game time and his performances against Japan and Netherlands could see him picked as back up. Mile Sterjovski and Richard Garcia are the other two op-

#### **Craig Moore**

Craig Moore has left more clubs early than a bored hipster on a Saturday night out on Oxford St. His form in the A League dipped and his barge arse was almost getting as big as Lucas Neill's. As a Socceroo fan I would be worried what the German, Ghanaian and Serbian Strikers will do to our slow and ageing defence. The backup looks like being Mark Milligan and Jade North however calls from some section state that Eddie Bosnar and Sasa Ognenovski should be considered. They both have the best record in terms of games played and have the height to combat the tall German and Serbian strikers. But Pim just doesn't like them and have zero experience with the national team. I would pick Mathew Spiranovic over Jade North.

#### My Fantasy 23 man Socceroo Squad

GK: Mark Schwarzer, Adam Federeci, Mathew Langarak (3)

DEF: Craig Moore, Lucas Neill, Mark Milligan, Scott Chipperfield ,Luke Wilkshire, Ryhs Williams, Mathew Spiranovc, David Carney (8)

MID: Tim Cahill, Brett Emerton, Ja-



Lining up for the Socceroos. But who exactly will be left standing come South Africa? Photo: GEOFF JONES

#### Socceroo Number Crunch

Harry Kewell Harry Kewell Nikita Rukavystya James Troisi	(Socceroo Caps/Goals) (45/13) (2/0) (3/0)	Club Liverpool Galatasaray Rosalare	Age 27 31 23 21	Season 05/06 09/10 09/10 09/10	Games/Goals 40/3 27/14 15/8 21
Tim Cahill Tim Cahill Nicky Carle	(37/19) (12)	Everton Everton Crystal Palace	26 30 28	05/06 09/10 09/10	39/8 40/10 23/1
Mark Bresciano Mark Bresciano Brett Holman	(52/11) (29/1)	Parma Palermo AZ Alkmar	26 30 26	05/06 09/10 09/10	34/8 22/6 31/6
Vince Grella Vince Grella Mile Jedinak Carl Valeri	(Socceroo Caps/Goals) (42) (9) (19/0)	Club Parma Blackburn Antalyaspor Grosseto/Sassuolo	Age 26 30 25 25	Season 05/06 09/10 09/10 09/10	Games/Goals Around 40 14 33/7 Around 20 game
Brett Emerton Brett Emerton Mile Sterjovski Dario Vidosic Richard Garcia	(72/17) (43/8) (4/0) (5)	Blackburn Blackburn Perth Glory N'berg/Duisberg Hull	26 30 30 23 28	05/06 09/10 09/10 09/10 09/10	37/2 28/2 23/6 19/1 18/0
Craig Moore Craig Moore Jade North Eddie Bosnar Mark Milligan Sasa Ognenovski Mathew Spiranovic Simon Colosimo	(47/3) (28) (9/1) (4/0) (26/3)	NewcastleUnited Brisbane/Kavala Incheon JEF Utd/ Shimizu Shanghai/JEF Utd Seongnam Nuremberg/Urawa Sydney FC	30 34 28 29 24 31 21 31	05/06 09/10 09/10 08/10 09/10 09/10 07/10 08/10	8 25 12 61/4 32/1 37/2 12/2 34 13
	Harry Kewell Nikita Rukavystya James Troisi  Tim Cahill Tim Cahill Nicky Carle  Mark Bresciano Mark Bresciano Brett Holman  Vince Grella Vince Grella Vince Grella Mile Jedinak Carl Valeri  Brett Emerton Brett Emerton Mile Sterjovski Dario Vidosic Richard Garcia  Craig Moore Craig Moore Craig Moore Jade North Eddie Bosnar Mark Milligan Sasa Ognenovski Mathew Spiranovic	Harry Kewell Harry Kewell Nikita Rukavystya James Troisi  Cahill Tim Cahill Nicky Carle  Mark Bresciano Brett Holman  (Socceroo Caps/Goals) Vince Grella Vince Grella Mile Jedinak Carl Valeri  Brett Emerton Mile Sterjovski Dario Vidosic Richard Garcia  Craig Moore Jade North Eddie Bosnar Mark Milligan Sasa Ognenovski Mathew Spiranovic Simon Colosimo  (20/1)  (37/19) (37/19) (37/19) (42) (52/11) (52/11) (52/11) (52/11) (53/10) (	Harry Kewell Harry Kewell Nikita Rukavystya James Troisi  (2/0) Rosalare  Tim Cahill Tim Cahill Nicky Carle  Mark Bresciano Brett Holman  (29/1)  Vince Grella Vince Grella Vince Grella Mile Jedinak Carl Valeri  Brett Emerton Brett Emerton Mile Sterjovski Dario Vidosic Richard Garcia  Craig Moore Craig Moore Jade North Eddie Bosnar Mark Milligan Mark Milligan Sasa Ognenovski Mathew Spiranovic Mark Bresciano (52/11) Parma Palermo AZ Alkmar  Club Parma Blackburn Bl	Harry Kewell	Harry Kewell

son Culina, Nicky Carle, Vince Grella, Mile Jedinak, Carl Valeri, Mark Bresciano, Brett Holman, (8)

FWD: Josh Kennedy, Harry Kewell, Nikita Rukavystya, Scott McDonald

#### My first team 11 against Germany Playing 4-2-3-1

Mark Schwarzer

Luke Wilkshire, Craig Moore, Lucas Neill, Scott Chipperfield Vince Grella, Jason Culina,

Brett Emerton Tim Cahill

Harry Kewell,

Unlucky to miss out:

Richard Garcia, Mile Sterjovski, Simon Colisimo, Dario Vidosic, Jade North, Tommy Oar.

#### Are we there yet?

I have tried to be conservative due to Pims' 4-2-3-1 formation with my choices. From the information in the tables you can make your own mind about whether the lack of games for some of our key players will have the Socceroos attending the tournament lacking match fitness (I don't think it's as bad as some of the prophets of doom in the media say it is).

It's all speculation on who will be picked anyway and the man that counts is Pim Verbeek but I'm not sure about you but I would rather forgo the all speculation, pre-game analysis and hype just so I can hear the whistle blow when the Socceroos take the field against Ze Germans on the 14th June @ 4:30 am



Port Melbourne 1 (R O'Hare) Brunswick City 0, Altona

East Phoenix 1 (B Lojanica) Ballarat Red Devils 1 (J

tomein), Banyule City 1 (N Papadopoulos) Werribee

City 2 (A Boras V Cichello), Geelong Rangers 3 (S Peri-

nac 2 Own Goal) Altona City 2 (P Galea L Carbone) Moreland City 0 Williamstown 3 (A Dimitrijevic 2 N Derbyshire), Sydenham Park 0 Whittlesea Ranges 2

Port Melbourne

Brunswick City

Werribee City

Moreland City

Altona City

Sydenham Park

Geelong Rangers

Altona East Phoeni

Ballarat Red Devils

Maribyrnong Greens

Cairnlea

Whittlesea Ranges

00111010			10001100
Doncaster Rovers 2 (J Adeosun J Carroll) Sc urbs 1 (K Olabuntu), Casey Comets 0 Hei: I (A Sanad), Eastern Lions 2 (MW Nyadza Berwick City 0, Diamond Valley Utd 2 (D Mi ratbegovic) Knox City 2 (J Flores P Ajao), So I (C McDonald) Dandenong City 0, Morwel (F Albanese H Ross-Schultz) Frankston Pine	atherton Utd ayo O Harel) levski V Mu- outhern Stars II Pegasus 2	Doncaster Rovers 2 Southern Suburbs ets 3 Heatherton Utd 0, Eastern Lions 3 Diamond Valley Utd 2 Knox City 4, Mo Frankston Pines 1	1 Berwick City 2,

PT		Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ		Р	W	D	L	F
12	Southern Stars	4	3	1	0	8	3	10	Diamond Valley Utd	4	3	0	1	15
12	Morwell Pegasus	4	3	0	1	10	6	9	Knox City	4	3	0	1	10
9	Diamond Valley Utd	4	2	1	1	11	11	7	Berwick City	3	3	0	0	6
9	Heatherton Utd	4	1	3	0	4	3	6	Casey Comets	4	2	1	1	7
7	Doncaster Rovers	4	2	0	2	6	6	6	Eastern Lions	4	2	0	2	10
6	Casey Comets	4	1	2	1	6	5	5	Dandenong City	3	2	0	1	7
6	Dandenong City	4	1	2	1	6	5	5	Heatherton Utd	4	2	0	2	4
4	Knox City	4	1	2	1	6	7	5	Southern Suburbs	3	1	1	1	6
3	Eastern Lions	4	1	1	2	6	8	4	Southern Stars	3	1	0	2	6
1	Berwick City	3	0	2	1	1	3	2	Frankston Pines	4	1	0	3	7
1	Southern Suburbs	3	0	1	2	5	8	1	Morwell Pegasus	4	1	0	3	8
0	Frankston Pines	4	0	1	3	2	6	1	Doncaster Rovers	4	0	0	4	4

#### STATE NORTH WEST 3 Cairnlea 2 La Trobe University 2. Hume Utd 0 Mel-

Cairnlea 3 (F Husanovic) La Trobe University 5 (N Vissaris L Lavalle D Greening 2 H Schlink), Hume Utd 2 (E Ah-metovic E Klancevic) Melbourne University 2 (A Griffith), Lalor 2 (D Alevizos G Oikonomidis) Keilor Park 2 (A El Dib F Sirgiovanni), Sunbury Utd 2 (D Gray S Ocallaghan Yarraville Glory 4 (H Timotheou J Ikanovic S Kalow 2 Essendon Utd 1 (BP Deleo) Maribyrnong Greens 2 (A Sehic A Vasilevski), Westgate 4 (J De Bono 2 V Kalayci SL Parnis) Geelong 1 (B Elmazi)

PWDLFAPT Westgate La Trobe University La Trobe University Melbourne University Cairnlea Hume Utd Keilor Park Lalor Melbourne University Geelong Maribyrnong Greens Sunbury Utd Yarraville Glory

niors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST	Reserves

Hume Utd

Westgate

Avondale Heights 2 (M Jancic M Principato) Northern 2 (T Grgic FA Cseh) Westvale 1 (J Parousis), Laverton Park 1 North Sunshine Eagles 3 (D Dodaj D Ajro), North City Lions 0 South Yarra 1 (G Thomsor

Avondale Heights 3 Northern Falcons 0, Corio 7 Melbourne City 2, Elwood City 0 Whittlesea Utd 1, FC Strathmore 1 Westvale 0, Laverton Park 0 North Sur shine Eagles 0, North City Lions 0 South Yarra 4

Port Melbourne 1 Brunswick City 0, Altona East Phoenix 0 Ballarat Red Devils 1, Banyule City 1 Werribee

City 2, Geelong Rangers 1 Altona City 2, Moreland

ourne University 3, Lalor 1 Keilor Park 3 (J Pilche C Motsianos), Sunbury Utd 3 Yarraville Glory 2

Essendon Utd 6 Maribyrnong Greens 2, Westgate 2

Geelong 3 (A Lopez M Temelkovski A Ilioski)

Whittlesea Ranges

Altona City

Port Melbourne Ballarat Red Devils

Brunswick City

Moreland City

Banyule City

	Р	w	D	L	F	Α	PT		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΊ
ondale Heights	4	4	0	0	8	0	12	Whittlesea Utd	4	3	1	0	7	0	10
ittlesea Utd	4	4	0	0	11	4	12	Avondale Heights	4	3	0	1	9	3	6
erton Park	4	3	0	1	9	4	9	FC Strathmore	4	3	0	1	6	6	6
rio	4	3	0	1	7	3	9	Corio	4	2	2	0	12	3	8
Strathmore	4	2	1	1	7	5	7	North Sunshine Eagles	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
rth Sunshine Eagles	4	2	0	2	7	6	6	South Yarra	4	2	0	2	9	6	6
uth Yarra	4	1	1	2	2	7	4	North City Lions	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Ibourne City	4	1	0	3	3	6	3	Laverton Park	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
stvale	4	1	0	3	3	6	3	Elwood City	4	1	0	3	8	11	3
rthern Falcons	4	1	1	2	2	5	1	Westvale	4	1	0	3	4	9	3
ood City	4	0	1	3	2	7	1	Melbourne City	4	1	0	3	6	17	3
rth City Lions	4	0	0	4	2	10	0	Northern Falcons	4	0	0	4	4	14	-3

Epping City 3 (M Tavolaro MA Micucci N Filin) Bell Park 2 (LJ Page N Hopper), Hoppers Crossing 2 (Z Sherzai CJ Harding) Surf Coast 4 (X Ryan 2 B Le Cornu MJ Roberts), Melbourne Tornado 3 (L Stolica 3) Lafor Utd 2 (Z Tomovski 2), Plenty Valley Lions 3 (C Nikolaidis 2 J Soklevski) Collingwood City 2 (S Jervis SD Olliver), West Preston 0 Moreland Utd 3, Western Eagles 3 (M Kowal

Surf Coast

Epping City

Moreland Utd

Melton

Bell Park

Plenty Valley Lions

Hoppers Crossing West Preston

Melbourne Tornado

Collingwood City

Watsonia Heights

Brimbank Stallions

Meadow Park Eagles

Mill Park

Epping City 4 Bell Park 2, Hoppers Crossing 4 Surf land Utd 2, Western Eagles 0 Melton 0

Brandon Park 2 (A Varteresian) Nunawading City FC Peninsula Strikers 1 (J Schwellinger) Mornington 0, Noble Park Utd 2 (AM Adem 2) Springvale City 2 (J Pekmezovic), Waverley Wanderers 1 (D Petta) Croydon Brandon Park 2 Nunawading City FC 3, Peninsula Strikers 4 Mornington 4, Noble Park Utd 3 Springvale City
1, Waverley Wanderes 0 Croydon City Arrows 5, North

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ		Р	w	D	L	F	Α	РΤ
South Springvale	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	Noble Park Utd	4	3	1	0	13	7	10
Waverley Wanderers	4	2	2	0	6	3	8	Nunawading City FC	4	3	0	1	15	10	9
Noble Park Utd	4	2	1	1	10	8	7	Fitzroy City	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
Kingston City	3	2	0	1	6	2	6	Croydon City Arrows	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
North Caulfield	4	2	0	2	9	10	6	Kingston City	3	2	0	1	14	4	6
Fitzroy City	4	2	0	2	8	10	6	Peninsula Strikers	4	1	3	0	9	6	6
Peninsula Strikers	4	2	0	2	5	8	6	Springvale City	4	2	0	2	8	13	6
Brandon Park	4	1	2	1	7	7	5	Mornington	4	1	2	1	9	10	5
Croydon City Arrows	4	1	1	2	7	6	4	South Springvale	3	1	1	1	6	2	4
Mornington	4	1	0	3	5	7	3	Brandon Park	4	1	0	3	8	13	3
Nunawading City FC	4	1	0	3	1	7	3	North Caulfield	4	0	1	3	4	15	1
Springvale City	4	0	2	2	6	11	2	Waverley Wanderers	4	0	0	4	3	17	0

Dandenong Sparrows 2 (KS Alwan D Ithier) Monash University 4 (R Bond LP Johnson G Moka JE Serrano), Dandenong Sparrows 3 Monash University 4 (P Allendes K Bibby T Heggan V Sinitsyn), Doveton 2 Old Scotch 1, Mooroolbark 1 Beaumaris 2, Old Camberwell Doveton 0 Old Scotch 3 (Tl Murray), Mooroolbark 3 Beaumaris 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 3 (P Margin A Kaimakamis J Bush) Monbulk 1 (J Kennedy), Old Melburnians 1 (E Meade) Boroondara Eagles 2 (TR Brooks NP Charalambous), Sandringham City 5 (MJ Putson 3 C

	Ρ	w	D	L	F	Α	PT	
ld Scotch	4	3	0	1	9	2	9	Monash University
ld Camberwell Grammar	4	3	0	1	7	8	9	Old Camberwell Gr
ooroolbark	4	2	1	1	7	5	7	Old Melburnians
/arragul Utd	4	1	2	1	13	9	5	Dandenong Sparro
andringham City	4	1	2	1	8	7	5	Doveton
onash University	3	1	1	1	8	6	4	Mooroolbark
oroondara Eagles	3	1	1	1	6	7	4	Monbulk
onbulk	4	1	1	2	7	9	4	Sandringham City
andenong Sparrows	4	1	1	2	6	9	4	Boroondara Eagles
eaumaris	4	1	1	2	2	6	4	Beaumaris
oveton	4	1	1	2	2	6	4	Old Scotch
ld Melburnians	4	0	3	1	7	8	3	Warragul Utd

wick Kings 2 Bayside Argonauts 0, Caulfield Cobras 3 Old Brighton Grammarians 3 (J Salvage), Lyndale Utd 3 Skye Utd 4 (F Dimu), Uni, of Melbourne 2 (M Cosmand NM Doherty) Whitehorse Utd 2 (L Marrone L Wong)

Riversdale 2 (T Frazer J Tracev) Endeavour Utd 1 (GM Riversdale 3 Endeavour Utd 1, Ashburton 1 Old Carev 2, Berwick Kings 1 Bayside Argonauts 3, Caulfield Utd 2 Old Brighton Grammarians 2, Lyndale Utd 6 Skye Utd 3 Uni. of Melbourne 0 Whitehorse Utd 3

Grammar 0 Monbulk 1. Old Melburnians 1 Boroondara

Eagles 2, Sandringham City 2 Warragul Utd 2

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	РΤ		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT
Ashburton	4	3	1	0	9	2	10	Riversdale	4	4	0	0	9	3	12
Skye Utd	4	3	0	1	12	7	9	Caulfield Utd	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
Riversdale	4	3	0	1	11	9	9	Lyndale Utd	4	3	0	1	16	8	9
Old Brighton Grammarian	s4	2	1	1	9	7	7	Old Carey	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Berwick Kings	4	2	1	1	5	3	7	Ashburton	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Whitehorse Utd	4	1	2	1	7	8	5	Berwick Kings	4	2	0	2	12	9	6
Bayside Argonauts	4	1	1	2	5	6	4	Endeavour Utd	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Endeavour Utd	4	1	1	2	3	4	4	Whitehorse Utd	4	1	0	3	7	12	3
Uni. of Melbourne	4	1	1	2	5	7	4	Uni. of Melbourne	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Old Carey	4	1	0	3	2	4	3	Bayside Argonauts	4	1	0	3	3	14	3
Lyndale Utd	4	1	0	3	4	10	3	Old Brighton Grammaria	ns4	0	2	2	5	8	2
Caulfield Cobras	4	0	2	2	5	10	2	Skye Utd	4	0	1	3	7	14	1

**Epping City** 

Surf Coast

Bell Park

Western Eagles

Melbourne Tornado

Watsonia Heights

Brunswick Zebras

Brimbank Stallions

Bundoora Utd Northern Roosters

Meadow Park Eagles

Darebin Utd

Youth Utd

Collingwood City Hoppers Crossing

Balmoral 1 (A Kablar) Keilor Wolves 1 (I Filiposki), Brimbank Stallions 6 (PJ Mangion 2 SD McNeill R Magro Own Goal) Bundoora Utd 3 (S Kocdeviren Own Goal) Darebin Utd 1 Upfield 1 (S Lazar), Meadow Park Eagles 0 Youth Utd 0, Watsonia Heights 0 Mill Park 2, Northern Roosters 1 (F Eren) Brunswick Zebras 0

or Wolves 3, Brimbank Stallions 3 , Darebin Utd 1 Upfield 2, Meadow outh Utd 1, Watsonia Heights 11 Mill Roosters 3 Brunswick Zebras 3	East Bentleigh 2 (D Koklas SN Jamieson) Essen Goyals 1 (BM Beltea), Manningham 3 Rowille E 5 (HK Humzy E Teles A Sabau 3), Keysborough Ramalinga A Husen A Phan) Seaford Utd 0, Brig White Star Dandenong 1 (I Styczen), Glen Wave Noble Park 1 (A Buhac), Eltham Redbacks 4 Old Grammarians 1

East Bentleigh 3 Essendon Royals 0, Manningham 2 Rowville Eagles 2 (C Radu I Gungor), Keysborough 4 Seaford Utd 1, Brighton 1 White Star Dandenong 0, Glen Waverley 3 Noble Park 2, Eltham Redbacks 0 Old Trinity Grammarians 2

	Р	W	υ	L	F	Α	РΙ		Р	vv	v	L	г	А	PI
Eltham Redbacks	4	3	0	1	12	4	9	Old Trinity Grammarians	4	3	1	0	17	4	10
Keysborough	4	3	0	1	10	4	9	Glen Waverley	4	3	0	1	15	5	9
Brighton	4	3	0	1	7	5	9	Seaford Utd	4	3	0	1	11	6	9
Essendon Royals	4	2	1	1	9	6	7	Brighton	4	3	0	1	8	7	9
East Bentleigh	4	2	1	1	6	7	7	Keysborough	4	2	1	1	11	7	7
White Star Dandenong	4	2	0	2	8	7	6	Noble Park	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
Seaford Utd	4	2	0	2	8	9	6	Rowville Eagles	4	2	1	1	8	8	4
Rowville Eagles	4	2	1	1	10	8	4	White Star Dandenong	4	1	0	3	4	6	3
Noble Park	4	1	1	2	5	8	4	Eltham Redbacks	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Old Trinity Grammarians	4	1	0	3	4	9	3	East Bentleigh	4	1	0	3	4	11	3
Glen Waverley	4	0	2	2	4	7	2	Manningham	4	0	2	2	7	11	2
Managinala		_	_	4	0	45	_	Eccondon Povolo	4	0	0	1	2	22	0

#### Victorian State & Provisional League Scoreboard brought to you by



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All matches to be played on Saturday 8th May

Whittlesea Ranges v Port Melbourne Epping Soccer Stadium Fri 7 May KO 8:30PM HC Kim Reserve Brunswick City v Ballarat Red Devils

Geelong Rangers v Altona East Phoenix Myers Resi Werribee City v Moreland City Galvin Park Reserve JT Gray Reserve

Eastern Lions v Casey Comets Gardiners Creek Rese Dandenong City v Berwick City Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve Ross Reserve Heatherton Utd v Doncaster Rovers Knox City v Frankston Pines Southern Suburbs v Diamond Valley Utd Keeley Park

State NW 3 Hume Utd v Westgate Laura Douglas Reserve Keilor Park v Cairnlea La Trobe University v Sunbury Utd Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field
Maribyrnong Greens v Lalor Melbourne Uni Rangers SC v Essendon Utd Princes Park (Parkville Yarraville Glory v Geelong

Fitzroy City v Kingston City Peninsula Strikers v Noble Park Utd Centenary Park Nunawading City FC v Springvale City Mahoneys Road Reserve South Springvale v Waverley Wanderers Warner Reserve Croydon City Arrows v Brandon Park Dorset Recreational Reserve Sat 8 May KO 8:30PM Mornington v North Caulfield Dallas Brooks Park Sun 9 May KO 3:00PM

Corio v North City Lions Melbourne City v Elwood City Edwards Reserve Larissa Reserve Northern Falcons v Laverton Park SC Westvale v South Yarra Whittlesea Utd v Avondale Heights Thomas Street Recreational reserve

Provi SE 1 Warragul Utd v Mooroolbark
Baxter Park (Warragul) Beaumaris v Old Scotch Boroondara Eagles v Dandenong Sparrows lonash University v Old Camberwell Grammar Monash University Sports Oval Monbulk Recreational Reserve Old Melburnians v Doveton

Bell Park v Surf Coast Bell Park Sports Club Collingwood City v Western Eagles
Kevin Bartlett Reserve Lalor Utd v Epping City Melbourne Tornado v Moreland Utd Plenty Valley Lions v Hoppers Crossing MacPhersons Park Sat 8 May KO 7:00PM

Skye Utd v Ashburton Skye Caulfield Cobras v Riversdale Victory Park Terrara Park Old Carey v Berwick Kings Carey Sports Complex Old Brighton Grammarians v Lyndale Utd Bayside Argonauts v Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC Shipston Reserve

Provi NW 3 Mill Park v Brimbank Stallions
Findon Reserve Youth Utd v Balmoral Brunswick Zebras v Watsonia Heights Bundoora Utd v Meadow Park Eagles Hills Recreationa Green Gully Reserve Northern Roosters v Darebin Utd

East Bentleigh v Glen Waverley ssendon Royals v Manninghan Ormond Park Old Trinity Grammarians v Keysborough Rowville Eagles v Eltham Redbacks Park Ridge Reserve
Seaford Utd v Brighton North Seaford Reserv White Star Dandenong v Noble Park Greaves Reserve

Victorian State League Division One

## Bulleen Lions roar clear

#### By Aritro Abedin

#### Fawkner Blues 2 vs St.Alban's Saints 2

A gale force wind at CB James Reserve wreaked havoc with the game at CB Smith Reserve as Fawkner and St.Alban's fought out an entertaining 2-2 draw. The visitors put two goals past Fawkner in the early stages of the game and went into the break ruing the fact that they didn't score at least three or four more as the Fawkner defence floundered against the wind. However the second half saw the situation reversed with the elements favouring the home side, who battered the Saints defence and broke through with a 75th minute goal to captain Frank Tramontana. The game then ended in heart-break for St.Albans as Orry Kara squeezed a goal past the goal-keeper with literally the last kick of the game, locking the score at 2-2. Blues coach Ken Murphy felt his side should have come away with the three points saying 'We probably deserved to win. We were very good in that second half, a lot more adventurous. We tried to get the two full-backs to attack and mark them man-on-man, and make it difficult for them to get clearances into the wind. We really should have won. I'm just disappointed we gave them two soft goals like that, it's just carelessness.

#### FC Clifton Hill 0 vs Pascoe Vale 1

Pascoe Vale took the points in a spirited game at Kevin Bartlett Reserve in a result that would no doubt have delighted coach George Karkaletsis, who was making his comeback to the club to whom he gave a number of years service. Daniel Tribuzio scored the only goal of the game in the 15th minute, and it was all one-way traffic after that as Pascoe Vale attacked with considerable panache and never gave the home-side any real sniff of the three points. George Karkaletsis was understandably delighted with the result, singling out Liam Flynn for a man of the match performance in midfield. 'He was outstanding, he got forward and created chances, but he also did the team stuff and defended well. He went past players, put balls into the box, he was creative and he was always there to pick the ball up but he also gave us a real 2nd dimension as well with his defensive work.

#### Whittlesea Zebras 3 vs Langwar-

The Zebras followed up last week's win with an impressive showing against visiting Langwarrin, scoring 3 goals in a game in which they were clearly the superior side and crafted a sheaf of excellent chances. Simon Tolli opened the scoring with some deft fox-in-the-box style marksmanship, latching onto the flick on from a cross from the right wing, and catching the keeper by surprise as he headed it home. Nick Kalambokis then got into the act, receiving the ball from a knock-down by his strike partner and then rounding the keeper to slot it into the net, before the Zebras rounded out the win with a third goal thirty minutes before the end. Whittlesea coach Gianfranco Impellizzeri could find no fault with his side's performance 'we moved the ball well, we were very organized at the back and everything worked like clockwork. We missed a few chances in

Preston Lions 0 vs Bulleen Lions

Alfredo Constantino's Bulleen side ran



High fives for Daniel Tribuzio (left of centre), who scored Pascoe Vale's match-winning goal.



Cvitkovic scores for the Saints. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

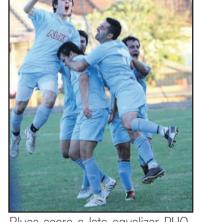
inflicting their second 5-0 drubbing for the season in a performance that truly signposts their status as a championship contender in this division. Bulleen opened the scoring with a stunning diving header before the half-time break, capping off a wonderful cross from star signing Anthony Magnacca. It was a half in which Preston did well to keep pace with a well-oiled Bulleen outfit, squandering a golden opportunity to equalize late in the half that may have entirely changed the complexion of the game. However it wasn't to be, and the floodgates opened for the visitors in the second half. Gino De Feo finished off a good assist from John Crivelli to begin the rout and the Lions were irresistib from that point on with a lovely lobbed goal from Magnacca adding a third, before substitute Anthony Ramzy helped himself to a late-brace to put the finishing touches on a wonderfully accomplished performance. 'Copping no goals is what our game is based around, and we've got a disciplined group, the keeper didn't have much to do.' said Bulleen assisthe end, but I think 3-1 was an honest tant Nick Crivelli, reflecting a defensive ethos that belied his side's stunning attacking performance. 'We've got Western Suburbs next week and that's going to be difficult, we just want to take points off whoever we can.

riot at B.T Connor Reserve on Sunday,



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Nick Davey (Cifton Hill) seems to be copping it on the chin in his heading contest with Daniel Tribuzio (Pascoe Vale)



Blues score a late equalizer PHO-TO: STEVE STAREK

#### Western Suburbs 3 vs Springvale White Eagles 1

Suburbs took the spoils in a 3-1 win at White Eagles Stadium that could have been even more emphatic had they taken their chances and finished off a penalty opportunity late in the game. 'A win's a win,' said Suburbs coach Lorenz Kindtner, 'we controlled othe game and deserved it.' He has reason to be pleased with his team's strong start to the season, though they face a daunting task next week against the all-conquering Bulleen Lions.

#### North Geelong Warriors Malvern City

goalweekly.com

Fawkner Blues 2 (F Tramontana O Kara) St Albans Saints 2 (J Loncaric M Cvitkovic)

FC Clifton Hill 0 Pascoe Vale 1 (D Tribuzio)

Whittlesea Zebras 3 (N Kalambokis S Tolli) Langwarrin 1

Preston Lions 0 FC Bulleen Lions 5

Western Suburbs 3 **Springvale White Eagles 1** (J Karanicolas)

Under 21s: North Geelong Warriors 0 Malvern City 0. Fawkner Blues 0 St Albans Saints 2. FC Clifton Hill 3 Pascoe Vale 1, Wester Suburbs 2 Springvale White Eagles 1, Whittlesea Zebras 2 Langwarrin 2, Preston Lions 0 FC Bulleen Lions 1

#### SL1 NEXT ROUND

Nth Geelong Warriors v Whittlese Elcho Park Fri 7 May KO 8:30PM

Pascoe Vale v Langwarrin Sat 8 May KO 3:00PM

Malvern City v Preston Lions Sat 8 May KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v FC Clifton Hill Sun 9 May KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Western Suburbs Veneto Social Club Mon 10 May KO 8:30PM

Springvale White Eagles v Fawkne White Eagles Stadium

#### **SL1 LADDER**

Pascoe Vale Western Suburbs Springvale White E Fawkner Blues Langwarrin Whittlesea Zebras St Albans Saints 4 1 3 0 9 7 Nth Geelong Warriors 3 0 3 0 3 3 3 0 0 3 0 8 0 Preston Lions

#### SL1 LADDER

Nth Geelong Warriors 3 Western Suburbs St Albans Saints FC Clifton Hill Whittlesea Zebras Preston Lions Springvale White E 3 0 1 2 4 9 1

The North Geelong vs Malvern City game postponed due to floodlight fail-

Monday 3rd May 2010 Monday 3rd May 2010



## Moore delays Brisbane Strikers debut

By Jarrod Ellis

The big news in the QSL for the past week or so has been the arrival of Australian Socceroo. Craig Moore at Brisbane Strikers. Moore has been training with the squad for the past fortnight and is looking to gain match fitness by competing in the QSL ahead of the World Cup.

Moore had been expected to take part in Brisbane's match against FNQ Bulls at Perry Park on Saturday but was forced to postpone his debut QSL appearance for another week.

Having been registered with Greek club Kavala previously this year, Moore must be provided clearance by Greek football authorities before being able to take to the field and that eventuality didn't arrive in time for Moore

No doubt Brisbane would have been disappointed to be without the Australian defender as they faced an in form FNO Bulls who had climbed to second place on the ladder following their 3-2 victory over Capricorn Cougars last

The opening stages of the match proved to be a balanced affair as both teams looked confident going forward, particularly out wide.

With both sides home to skilful forward lines it wasn't going to be long until the scoring was opened. Brisbane's Chris Di Sipio proved to be the first to add his name to the scorers as he pounced on a mistake from Bulls keeper Steve Dangaard to poke the ball into the net.

Di Sipio then turned provider four minutes later as he held off a Bulls defender with his back to goal and laid off a pass to Matt Thurtell who curled a shot around Dangaard making it 2-0 only 15 minutes into the game.

The Bulls responded well to going behind, putting in a fighting display in midfield and looking for their star wingers, Nathan Bird and George Koroma,

to create an opening for them.

It was Thurtell though who would strike next though as he scored his second of the game in the 28th minute. Di Sipio was once again the provider, playing a first time pass to Thurtell from out on the left. Thurtell didn't waste any time, powering a shot past a diving Dangaard.

Bulls' David Ruiz was giving the home side some troubles in defence as he sought to bring his side back into the game. The in-form striker saw two shots saved by Brisbane keeper Brendan White as the half came to a close with Brisbane leading 3-0.

The second-half saw the match develop into a midfield arm wrestle, heavy tackles and fouls becoming the order of the day. The Bulls perhaps shaded that opening twenty minutes of the half, but with Brendan White in good form the visitors were unable to make their chances count.

That profligacy would prove to be their undoing as Di Sipio and Thurtell combined once again in the 70th minute to condemn the Bulls to a 4-0 defeat. After accepting a pass from wide on the Strikers' left flank Thurtell held off a couple of tacklers on a run across the Bulls' area before slipping a pass out wide to Di Sipio on the right side of the Bulls' defence. As the Bulls' fullback was drawn towards him Di Sipio delivered a pass back to the six-yard box where Thurtell arrived first to side-foot the ball past Dangaard and complete his second consecutive hat-trick at Perry

Magpies Sporting Grounds in Mackay saw Whitsunday Miners host Bundaberg Spirit in a battle of the cellar dwellers, both sides failing to win over the first five rounds.

Ben Schaper, who scored a hat-trick against Bundaberg last time these sides met once again proved to be a thorn in the Spirit's side, opening the scoring in the first minute of the match.



QSL fans will have to wait another week before Craig Moore graces the field for Brisbane Strikers.

1 Sunshine Coast 2 Brisbane Strikers 640214 5 912 3 FNQ Bulls 64021615 112 6312 9 6 310 4 NQ Razorbacks 5 Capricorn Cougars 6 Whitsunday Miners 7 QLD A of S

#### NEXT ROUND

QAS v Brisbane Strikers Sat 8 May 7:00pm Capricorn Cougars v NQ Razorbacks Sat 8 May 7:00pm FNQ Bulls v Whitsunday Miners Sat 8 May 8:00pm Sunshine Coast FC v Bundaberg Spirit Sun 9 May 4:00pm

#### **RESULTS**

Brisbane Strikers FC 4

Whitsunday Miners 4 Bundaberg Spirit 1

NQ McDonald's Razorbacks 1 Sunshine Coast FC 2

Capricorn Cougars 3 Queensland Academy of Sport 1

#### NQ RAZORBACKS 1 **SUNSHINE COAST 2**

The NO McDonald's Razorbacks acquitted themselves well against top of the table team, Sunshine Coast Fire, with Anthony Galliozzi scoring a great goal to put the Razorbacks in front in the 22nd minute. Sunshine Coast then followed with two goals prior to the half-time break.

The second half saw the Razorbacks play all over their opponents with many goal scoring opportunities denied. The crowd was kept on the edge of their seats for the last twenty minutes as the Razorbacks constantly sought to put another ball in the back of the net. While this game did not end with the result we would have wished. the Razorbacks kept the Sunshine Coast to their lowest goal scoring game so far this season and showed they are definitely a team to be reckoned with.

Round 7 of the HQSL sees the NQ McDonald's Razorbacks travel to Rockhampton to compete against the Capricorn Cougars on Saturday 8 May at 7pm.





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## Marconi take sole lead as United crash

By Mike Salter

Marconi were left two points clear in the NSW Premier League after the Round 10 fixtures, with their erstwhile partners at the summit, Sydney Untied, suffering a 3-2 reverse at home to Blacktown on Sunday evening.

Two of the top three were in action on Saturday night. Marconi secured top spot with a 1-0 win over the Rockdale City Suns, Erick Anabalon scoring the winner after a sweet passing move. Rockdale, after a splendid start to the season, have now lost two games on the trot.

Bonnyrigg kept up the pressure at the top with a 4-2 win over Sydney Olympic at the Serbian Centre. Although Olympic took the lead twice, a rousing final twenty minutes for the home side brought three goals and another three points for the "Chelsea of the NSWPL", as Olympic coach Pat Marando described Bonnyrigg afterwards.

In Saturday evening's other fixture, Sutherland moved up the ladder with a 3-0 win at home over Manly United. Panny Nikas, finding his feet again at Seymour Shaw after his spell with the Central Coast Mariners, scored two goals in a comfortable win for the defending champions.

Sunday saw the APIA-Leichhardt revival continue, as the Italian-backed club won 2-1 away to Bankstown. The home side levelled the scores just after the interval, but Bankstown were reduced to ten men just before the hour, and APIA duly scored the winner soon afterwards.

The West Sydney Berries drew 0-0 at home to the South Coast Wolves, a result which leaves both sides well shy of the

Sydney United 2-3 Blacktown City

A last-gasp strike from Tolgay Ozbey gave 10-man Blacktown a 3-2 win over their hosts Sydney United, in one of the most lively matchups of the season so far.

United looked less than cohesive from the outset, although they might have gone ahead when player-coach David Zdrilic sent a quick free kick through to lone striker Mirjan Pavlovic on four minutes. The former Jets striker advance on the left and beat Matt Rvan in the Blacktown goal, but was controversially ruled offside.

Blacktown had their turn three minutes later, when a surging run from Ante Deur on the left culminated in a close-range shot which Vedran Janjetovic did well to save, Tolgay Ozbey failing to make the most of the rebound.

Out of nowhere, United opened the scoring in the 15th minute. The Blacktown defence, immaculate up to that point, gave the ball away to Pavlovic, who advanced down the right and



Action from the NSW Premier League. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/FNSW

crossed; Blacktown were not able to clear the ball, and Elsid Barkhousir was on hand to sweep the ball home with his

Blacktown applied pressure in the succeeding minutes, with Ozbey's speed and Mitchell Long's clever movement looking likely to create openings, but none arrived until the half-hour mark. The in-form Long twisted his way down the right and crossed for an unmarked Ante Deur to head home without much trouble. Level pegging once more.

Blacktown might have taken the lead a minute later, when Ozbey's drive at goal from a tight angle was saved with aplomb by Janjetovic. A similar shot by Pavlovic at the other end, taking advantage of a good crossfield ball from Barkhousir, was held by Ryan.

Pavlovic had another chance when Zdrilic, otherwise ineffective, glanced a header through to him on 38 minutes. The youngster, however, wrongly presumed himself to be in an offside position, and allowed the ball to run over the by-line. He almost made amends two minutes later when a careless back-pass from Matt Pressello put Ryan in trouble, but the Blacktown goalie just managed on.

to clear the ball from Pavlovic's feet.

To general surprise, Blacktown snatched the lead just as the half was drawing to a close. Another loose back-pass, this time from Damon Collina, was treated too casually by Janjetovic, and Joel Chianese managed to tackle the United keeper as he attempted to clear. Chianese was left with an empty net to tap into, and it was 2-1 to the visitors.

The match took another turn just before the whistle when a melee following a tackle on Barkhousir resulted in Tyler Simpson receiving a straight red card for violent play. Blacktown down to ten... and 45 minutes remaining.

Not surprisingly, most of the pressure came from the home side after the interval. Pavlovic looped a header onto the bar on 52 minutes, Barkhousir again providing the cross, and on the hour a fine shot from Ivo Bosnar, advancing from midfield, pinged off the far post.

United brought on Luka Glavas and Sean Mitchell to reinforce their attack. Nevertheless, Ozbey gave a warning of things to come at the other end when he surged inside from the left and shot on 73 minutes. Janjetovic managed to hold

On 77 minutes, United equalised. Glavas received the ball in the centre, turned neatly, and curled a superb shot into the top right-hand corner of the goal. The Boka stand erupted, and it looked like the hosts would go on to exploit their numerical advantage.

They threatened to do so several times as the minutes ticked away. Joe Vrkic headed a corner into the side netting on 85 minutes, and Ryan held a good header from Barkhousir two minutes later. At the other end, Collina was forced to clear off the line from a Jordan Simpson

Remarkably, though, it was Blacktown who broke the deadlock. Ozbey was released on the break in the first minute of injury time, and his sinuous run took him past two defenders and to the right of the penalty area; checking onto his left foot, he sent in a shot which crept past Janjetovic at the near post. Cue pandemonium on the Blacktown bench.

United's feints at the Blacktown goal in the three remaining minutes of injury time were harmless, and Aytek Genc's team took the precious three points. A major setback for last season's premiers.

#### **NSW LADDER**

10 7 1 23 10 6 1 2 Marconi Stallions Bonnyrigg White Eagles 10 6 1 2 Blacktown City FC Sydney United 10 6220 Sutherland Sharks 10 3 3 13 10 3 6 10 Rockdale City Suns Sydney Olympic APIA Leichhardt Tigers 10 36 10 Manly United FC 10 25 9 South Coast Wolves West Sydney Berries Bankstown City

#### **NSW RESULTS**

GRADE: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 (Bradley Boardman 41/52m Nikola Zonjic 78m Daniel Severino 91m) Sydney Olympic 2 (Nikolas Tsattalios 13m Phillip Makrys 62m), Sutherland Sharks 3 (Pani Nikkas 58/71m Blake Powell 83m) Manly United 0, Marconi Stallions 1 (Erick Anabalon 25m) Rockdale City Suns 0, Bankstown City Lions 1 (Tallan Martin 46m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2 (Anthony Hartshorn 39m Nicola Rizzo 60m), West Sydney Berries 0 South Coast Wolves 0, Sydney United 2 (Elsid Barkhousir 16m Luka Glavas 78m) Blacktown City FC 3 (Ante Deur 21m Joel Chianese 41m Tolgay Ozbey 90m).

GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Sydney Olympic 2, Sutherland Sharks 2 Manly United 0, Marconi Stallions 1 Rockdale City Suns 2, Bankstown City Lions 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0, West Sydney Berries 1 South Coast Wolves 3, Sydney United 2 Blacktown City FC 1.

GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Syd-ney Olympic 2, Sutherland Sharks 1 Manly United 1, Marconi Stallions 3 Rockdale City Suns 0, Sydney United 1 Blacktown City FC 0.

**NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 7: FIRST** GRADE: Spirit FC 1 (Own goal 28m) Sydney University 1 (C Soares 46m), Fraser Park 3 (N Sama 25m S Kostanic 47m A Smith 64m pen) Northern Tigers 0, Macarthur Rams 3 (S Messam (58/68m A Malmierca 71m) Dulwich Hill 1 (A Faria 52m), Central Coast Lightning 0 Parramatta Eagles 3 (Own goal 28m M Clowes 72m C Camilleri 84m), FC Bossy Liverpool 0 Granville Rage 3 (P Cap-puccio 20/78m J Ekehov 94m), St George FC 2 (J Figon 43m R Maekawa 85m) Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0.

GRADE 20: Spirit FC 4 Sydney University 0, Fraser Park 0 Northern Tigers 3, Macarthur Rams 4 Dulwich Hill 0, Central Coast Lightning 0 Parramatta Eagles 3.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 7: FIRST GRADE: Stanmore Hawks 1 (W Hijazi Scorpions 2 (B Lam 70m C Theodosiou 82m) Mounties Wanderers 3 (D Petrovic 32m T McColl 51m G Baldock 85m), **Blacktown Spartans Fairfield City Lions** Postponed, Hills Brumbies 1 (D Savic 52m) Balmain SC 0.

GRADE 20: Stanmore Hawks 2 Gladesville Ryde Magic 3, Schofield Scorpions 4 Mounties Wanderers 2, Blacktown Spartans 5 Fairfield City Lions 1, Hills Brumbies 2

#### **NEXT ROUND**

3pm Sun 9/May Syd Olympic v Marconi **Stallions** Belmore Sports Ground 3pm Sun 9/May Rockdale City Suns v

S'land Sharks

Bicentenial Park Sth 3pm Sun 9/May Manly Utd v Syd Utd

3pm Sun 9/May Blacktown City v Bank-

3pm Sun 9/May West Syd Berries v B'rigg White Eagles

Sydney Olympic Athletic Centre 3pm Sun 9/May Sth Coast Wolves v APIA L'hardt Tigers Win Stadium

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## Sth Hobart open 6-point lead

By Walter Pless

South Hobart opened up a 6-point lead at the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder when they beat third-ranked Tilford Zebras 4-1 at home at South Hobart on Satur-

Second-placed Glenorchy Knights lost ground when they were held to a 2-2 draw away to sixth-placed Clarence United at Wentworth Park on Sat-

And, New Town Eagles leap-frogged Clarence into fifth place earlier on Saturday when they downed fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United 3-0 at home at Clare Street.

Eagles had lost 3-1 to South Hobart the previous Sunday, Kostas Kanakaris netting twice and Shae Hickey once for South, with Adam McKeown replying for Eagles.

Zebras were no match for South, who started without Jonathon Lo and Tom Roach. They are medical students and had an examination and only arrived at the ground after the kick-off. They were both on the team sheet, however, and came on as second-half substitutes and both scored.

South led 2-0 at the interval through a brace by youngster Andy Brennan, who was drafted in to the side for his debut and did not disappoint.

Brennan made it 1-0 on the half-hour mark after a long free-kick by goalkeeper Sam Kruijver. Brennan was first to the ball and lobbed it over Zebras keeper Troy Kaden.

Three minutes before the break, Brennan ran onto a perfect through-ball from Jim Pennicott and slotted past Kaden to make it 2-0.

Jayden Welch pulled a goal back for Zebras in the 61st minute, but Roach restored South's two-goal buffer in the 71st minute when he beat Kaden to a cross and headed the ball home.

Lo prodded the ball home at the near post from an excellent Hickey cross in the 78th minute to complete the vic-

Goals by Alex Leszczynski and Andrew Clark put Eagles 2-0 up against the Lions, while a strike by McKeown in the second period completed the home side's tally.

Knights took a 20th-minute lead against Clarence through an own-goal by defender Mattias Toghill, who tried to dispossess Amadu Koroma but succeeded only in toeing the ball past his

Three minutes into stoppage time at the end of the first half, Sam McIntyre equalised for the home side after he was put through by Joseph Stevens.

Knights coach Eamonn Kelly tried to approach the referee after the halftime whistle but was shepherded away by his players. Kelly was sent from the



South Hobart's Tom Roach beats Zebras keeper Troy Kaden with a header to make it 3-1 for South. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

bench 20 minutes into the second half by referee Kim Barker, who will submit a report about the Knights coach's

Substitute Ben Hamlett cut inside from the left and beat goalkeeper Ben Peter with a low drive in the 54th minute to put Clarence ahead.

Seven minutes from the end, Jade Clay salvaged a point for the Knights when he scored direct from a corner, the ball going in off the far post.

Tensions were eased somewhat five minutes from the end when a male streaker ran diagonally across the pitch and the game was held up for a minute as order was restored.

There were a few surprises in the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, leaders Devonport City falling 5-2 at home to Prospect Knights and Burnie United going down at home 2-0 to Riverside Olympic.

Northern Rangers beat Ulverstone 3-1 away, while second-last Launceston City demolished bottom-side Launceston United 6-0 at home at Mitsubishi

#### NORTH RESULTS

Burnie United 0 Riverside Olympic 2

**Devonport City 2 Prospect Knights** 

**Ulverstone 1 Northern Rangers 3** Launceston City 6 Launceston United 0

NORTH LADDER

Riverside Olympic 5 3 1 1 10 5 10

PWD LFAPts

5 4 1 0 19 7 13

5 4 0 1 22 8 12

6 3 0 3 24 12 9

6 3 1 2 17 17 10

5 2 1 2 14 9 7

5 2 0 3 10 18 6

5 1 0 4 11 11 3

#### **SOUTH RESULTS**

New Town Eagles 3 Kingborough Lions 0 South Hobart 4 Tilford Zebras 1 **Clarence United 2 Glenorchy** Knights 2 **Hobart Olympia 2 Taroona 2** 

#### **SOUTH LADDER** PWD I F A Pts South Hobart 8 7 1 0 21 4 22 Glenorchy Knights 7 5 1 1 23 11 16 Tilford Zebras 8 4 2 2 18 16 14 8 3 2 3 11 13 14 Kinaborouah Lions Clarence United 8 1 4 3 10 16 7 New Town Eagles 8 2 2 4 16 16 8 7 1 2 4 11 19 5 Hobart Olympia 8 0 2 6 8 23 2

#### **NEXT ROUND**

Launceston United 6 0 0 6 4 43 0

Northern Rangers

Prospect Knights

Launceston City

**Devonport City** 

**Burnie United** 

Ulverstone

Saturday 8th May Launceston United v Somerset Birch Avenue 2.30pm

Riverside Olympic v Ulverstone

**Burnie United v Devonport City** 

Northern Rangers v Launceston City

Prospect Knights - Bye

Saturday 15th May Statewide Lakoseljac Cup

#### NEXT ROUND

#### Round 9

Friday 7th May Tilford Zebras v Taroona

Saturday 8th May New Town Eagles v Glenorchy Knights Clare Street 2.30pm

Clarence United v Hobart Olympia

Sunday 9th May Kingborough Lions v South Hobart Lightwood Park 2.30pm

Saturday 15th May Statewide Lakoseljac Cup



New Town Eagles striker Adam McKeown heads past South Hobart keeper Sam Kruijver to equalise. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

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## **Eagles swoop but Raiders hold firm**

By Nat Adamopoulos

Round 5 of the FFSA Super League had in-form side Adelaide Blue Eagles travelling away from home to the Croatian Sports Centre to meet Raiders, whose failure to make a good start to the season has been noted.

It was a tumultuous week for the gaffer John Duthie, where defenders Todd McSorley and Charles Marwe parted company with the club and keeper Codey Larkin (Adel United Youth Team) moved to Cumberland United, making way for young keeper Dan Atkins (Cumberland United) to step straight in as first keeper while Jason Delfos is recovering from a finger injury sustained several weeks ago. It also gave an opportunity for talented defender Daniel Hain to get a start up, making his way back into the game after injury and work commitments saw him take an absence for a couple of sea-

Eagles headed up by Captain and veteran keeper Gino De Lucia had a great start, almost making their mark in the 15th minute when an intended cross in by Damien DiMella missed the head of striker Chad Bugeja but fell for Fortunato Filletti to give Bugeja a second opportunity to score, the Raiders keeper Atkins brilliantly blocking the shot with a reflex save. Two minutes later Bugeja found himself with an open goal opportunity, uncharacteristically blasting the chance wide of his target. Blue Eagles had majority of possession during the first half, with Evan Kounavelis and young speedster Kym Harris having several chances to put the first score on the board around the 30 minute mark, the latter shooting over the top of goals on both occasions. Raiders seldomly saw the ball down in their final third but each time they did, were either shut down by the Eagles defence or dispossessed due to ineffective passing. Raiders Captain Richie Alagich tried several times with what has become his signature bullet kicks to crack open the scoring, but was well covered by the experience of keeper De Lucia.

The second half saw an improvement in Raiders game with better passing and a more attacking football being played, a sense of urgency in the air with the 3 points up for grabs. Tall man up front Nikica Kuzman was the Raiders goto man, getting plenty of supply but at times being double manned by the Eagles defenders Dean Kenrick and Gianluca Lagati making it difficult for him to break clear. Bugeja was in the thick of things again in the 60th minute having another opportunity to put goals on the board, instead his shot skimming over the crossbar of Atkins. Both coaches made timely changes in the 64th and 65th minute, Eagles coach Zoran Karadzic replacing hard worker Adam Vizzari for the fresh legs of Nicholas Bucco and Raiders coach John Duthie bringing off Matthew Muscroft for Michael Acton his pacey winger. Acton made immediate impact, his speed down the left of the park testing the Eagles, with Kuzman

having more work to do with the balls given in to him. The change was rewarded with a chance to go 1-0 up in the 70th minute after Craig Goodwin intercepted a pass from Bugeja, finding the feet of Acton who raced down the left to put in a pass to Kuzman, the striker stabbing the ball in with his left foot to force De Lucia to deflect the shot away. Three minutes later the action was again at the other end of the park, Kounavelis in prime position just outside the box but his shot running across the face of goal. The seesaw nature of the game then turned back in favour for the Raiders, the tough midfielder Sean Brennan with a shot, having to be disappointed to watch it go wide of the post. The run of play had now seen the shot count evened up, as Raiders continued to test the Eagles defence and pump the goals. Duthie made his second change in the 78th minute, substituting consistent youngster Dylan Willcox for Michael Cavallaro trying to inject some fresh firepower into the match. Eagles player DiMella had his chance to put his name up in lights with 10 minutes to go after Kounavelis passed a ball into to Bugeja who then laid off for an incoming DiMella who squandered the golden opportunity by shooting the ball over the top and wide of goals. In the dying stages of the match Kuzman had several opportunities to get the winner, but was well checked by the Azzurri defenders.

The game was a tough tousle leaving both sides to come away with the single point and a 0-0 draw, Duthie feeling the better of the two coaches knowing that his very different side had weathered the

"After a difficult 10 days at the club, it was an excellent effort to get a draw against the Blue Eagles. We fought hard all day and never gave up, the boys giving 100% which was extremely pleasing. We can now build on this performance and look forward to next week's game with a certain amount of confidence. We certainly don't deserve to be in the position we are in on the ladder, but with such an even league we are only five points out of the top five and have everything to play for," Duthie said.

It couldn't go without making a special mention to some young lads on either side, Eagles UK import young Mitch Nicholson who proved his worth with a terrific game, most of Eagles play coming through his presence in the midfield and on the opposing side the consistency and endeavour of Craig Goodwin, who plays with great vision and maturity and the debutante performances of Daniel Hain and Dan Atkins, who both got on the best players listings.

In other matches around the grounds, Campbelltown City Red Devils and Adelaide Galaxy had a 1-1 draw at Newton Village Sports Centre. In a game of two halves, the Red Devils came out of the blocks and scored early through the unpredictable Ali Toure commanding the first half and catching Galaxy on the break on many times. The real Galaxy came out to play in the second half, dominating most of the play and turning the



Metrostars young gun jackson Groves is well checked by Foxes defender Jodie Loomes watch on. PHOTOS: ADAM BUTLER

game around to eventually be rewarded with a goal coming from Brett Rayner. Although preferring to snatch 3 points away from the match, Galaxy coach Carl Maynard was pleased with the way his lads showed character and turned around what could have been a defeat into a single point draw.

At Bailey Reserve homeside Cumberland United had their second big loss in as many weeks at the hand of MetroStars, going down 3-5 to the League leaders with new keeper Codey Larkin (Raiders) taking his spot between the sticks. Showing their opponents that they don't rely on a single striker to score, the visitors got away to a commanding lead going 3-0 up before the sides went into the half time break. MetroStars went on to score two more through Scott Tunbridge with a brace, Louis Brain, Steven Grelli and Michael Matricciani all with a single. Typical never say die, the Foxes did save face coming back to answer with 3 goals of their own, Daniel Carter with two and Shaun Smith getting the other. After being ousted in the Federation Cup by Premier League White City Woodville last week, the Foxes coach Neil Young will now have to do some soul searching to get his players back up and running and find that winning spirit again.

At Carnegie Reserve the only night match saw Western Strikers tough it out with Para Hills Knights in a 1-1 draw. The game resembled a tug-o-war at times, the momentum switching from one team to the next. The Strikers went 1-0 up in the 14th minute through J Spadavecchia, his shot beating a normally solid Ben Moore in goals for the Knights. The game saw

some crunching tough play and tackles which both sides weathered, each one giving as good as they got. The Knights equalized in the second half, soon after young Alex Mullen came on, his link with Matthew Marchioro enabling a ball to be passed in for Matthew Mullen to get onto, the screamer totally beating the Strikers keeper Sam Lennon. The point leaves the Knights languishing at the wrong end of the table, a position that Coach Kenny Tosh would like to see turn around in the next few weeks.

To finish the round, Adelaide City host Adelaide Cobras at their homeground Adelaide City Park on Monday night. With both sides sitting middle table, this match is the proverbial six pointer.



More SA action between Metro-Stars and Foxes. PHOTOS: ADAM BUTLER

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE - Round 5 Results

Para Hills 1 (A.Mullen) (HT 1-0) Best – Strikers (S.Stefanopoulos, C.Middleton

Rest – Raiders (D.Hain, N.Kuzman, D.Atkins) Blue Eagles (K.Harris, D.Kenrick, G.Lagati) Res – Raiders 1 Blue Eagles 1 U19 – Raiders 2 Blue Eagles 1

Adelaide City vs Adelaide Cobras Monday 3 May - 7:30pm Adelaide City Park, Corner Hilltop Drive & Fosters Ro OAKDEN Res – Adel City 5 Cobras 1 U19 – Adel City 2 Cobras 1

**DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE** 

Modbury 3 (S.Pearce 2, S.Weidenbach)
Pirates 1 (J.Coley)
Best – Modbury (C.Dean, R.Devlin, S.Pearce)
(C.Alagich, S.Unglaube, K.McFadyen)
Res – Modbury 5 Pirates 1
U19 – Modbury 5 Pirates 1

Adelaide Comets 1 (R.Mitchell) Croydon 2 (P.Kirreh, K.Kosznik) (HT 0-1) Best - Comets (D.Makridis, S.Warner, R.Moore) Croydon (C.D'Alfonso, Z.Malik, D.Christison) Res - Comets 3 Croydon 1 U19 - Comets 1 Croydon 4

Adelaide Olympic 3 (T.Mullen, P.Pezos, A.Orlando)
(HT 1-0) Mitte City Woodville 0
Best – Olympic (Pezos, T.Mullen, P.Deng)
White City (M.Tosic, M.Keens, R.Saraceno)
Res – Olympic 2 White City 1
U19 – Olympic 4 White City 2

Enfield City 1 (J.Stavrides) Adelaide Hills 1 (L.Smith) (HT 1-0)
Best – Enfield (R.Fimmano, D.Martinez, Ja.Costa)
Adel Hills (D.Stam, L.Smith, A.Nicholson)
Res – Enfield 0 Adel Hills 1
U19 – Enfield 0 Adel Hills 2

West Adelaide 2 (H.Skoumbros, S.Kezios) Salisbury United 1 (B.Agars) Best – West Adel (B.Weaver, G.Belekas, P.Toumaz Salisbury (J.Miller, R.Deeley, D.McKenna) Res – West Adel 0 Salisbury 5 U19 – West Adel 2 Salisbury 2

5 4 1 0 18 8 10 13 MetroStars Campbelltown City 5 3 1 1 8 8 0 10 Adelaide Galaxy Adelaide Blue Eagles 5 2 1 2 11 8 3 7 Adelaide City Western Strikers 4 2 0 2 10 10 0 6 4 1 1 2 6 10 -4 4 Adelaide Cobras 5 1 0 4 12 16 -4 3 Cumberland Utd

#### **NEXT ROUND**

#### Round 7

#### Sat 15/05/2010

Campbelltown vs Adelaide

3pm Newton Village Sports Com-

Cumberland Utd vs Adelaide Galaxy

3pm Bailey Reserve Raiders vs Western Strikers 3pm Croatian Sports Centre Sun 16/05/2010

MetroStars vs Adelaide Blue

3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve

#### Mon 17/05/2010

Adelaide City vs Para Hills 7.30pm Adelaide City Park



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## Perth Out Play Knights To Move Top

By Ashley Morrison

When Perth played host to the Western Knights this weekend it was second v first, last year's Champions against last year's Premiers. There has been a great rivalry established between the two sides and it promised to be a mouth watering game.

The opening fifteen minutes witnessed end-to-end action and only the goalkeeping of Martino for Perth and Siddall for the Knights kept the game at nil all.

In the first minute Martino denied Price, two minutes later Siddall blocked a rasping long-range effort from Naglieri. Then it was Martino again who denied Campbell with a superb fingertip save to push his header over the crossbar. Soon after Siddall prevented Sharland opening the scoring with another superb stop.

In the 16th minute MacMurray from Perth directed a header wide of Siddall's post for Perth, as the home side started to control the middle of the park. Naglieri and Doyle being given far too much room in which to dictate play.

In the 18th minute a sublime through ball from Naglieri found the run of Onoforo, but Siddall was alert to the danger and blocked. The Knights immediately counter attacked from the rebound. Campbell beat Kilkelly in the Perth box, and lifted the ball over Martino, but it rebounded off the cross bar and away to

In the 25th minute Naglieri and Onoforo combined again, and again it was great vision by the former to play in Onoforo. He caught Annall flat footed and ran on the angle into the box, then coolly side footed past the advancing Siddall to give Perth the lead. The Knights had been warned previously that if they did not close down Naglieri a goal was likely, They chose not to heed those warnings and this was third time lucky for Perth as his through ball finally resulted in a goal

In the 42nd minute the Knights drew level although fortuitously. Versaico broke down the right and fed Van Dongen, who took the ball to the by-line. He looked to pull the ball back across the box and it struck the defender's arm. The referee blew his whistle and pointed to the spot. It seemed harsh as the ball struck the arm of the defender rather than him moving his arm to the ball. However up stepped Montgomery to place the ball past Martino and the Knights were back on level terms.

Just before half time the game almost boiled over when there was a flare up between Naglieri and Montgomery. The referee had stopped play with the Knights in attack because Kilkelly lay on the ground. He claimed an elbow to the face, but it seemed more a case of egg on face at how easily David Micevski had out muscled him. When the referee played the drop ball Montgomery understandably wanted to continue the attack the Knights had been mounting. Perth felt that he should have returned the ball. Both players received yellow cards for their little tete-a tete.

Whereas the first half had been exciting and full of free flowing football, the second half became more of a dogfight, in which Perth was definitely the aggres-

In the 64th minute it looked like they would get their just rewards, Doyle found Naglieri in space on the left, and he crossed to an unmarked Onoforo in the box, he took a touch before shooting. and as he shot Ferguson appeared from nowhere and blocked, although seconds later Onoforo was deemed offside.

Six minutes later Perth deservedly hit the front, and again it was Naglieri who was the creator, he found Onoforo in



IMartino in Goal for Perth claims from the Knights' Montgomery. PHOTO: MATTHEW PAVLINOVICH



City's two goal hero Nicky Platt and Swan United Brendan Craig in action at Francis Street. PHOTO: PETER SIMCOX

space on the left, who crossed into the box. Ferguson was caught spectating, and MacMurray gained a metre to get in front of the big defender and bundle the ball into the back of the net past Siddall. It was not an elegant finish, but an effective one.

Four minutes later Perth could have wrapped the game up, Onoforo robbed Price and slipped the ball to Doyle who played a one two with Sharland that unlocked the Knights' defence, but as he was about to shoot, Ferguson again appeared from nowhere and blocked.

Perth thoroughly deserved their win, and leapfrogged the Knights to go top of the league, two points clear of the Knights whose unbeaten start to the season had been brought to an end.

In other games Inglewood who were bottom of the table at the start of the

weekend along with Mandurah, climbed up the table with a 1-0 win over Armadale, while Mandurah City also recorded beating Swan United 1-3.

Newly promoted Balcatta's bubble seems to have burst as they suffered their third league defeat in a row, when Sorrento took a 4-0 lead. Balcatta replied with two late goals but the game was already lost by then.

Floreat Athena remain third on the ladder following their 2-4 win away to Cockburn, a loss which sees the latter slip to second bottom.

#### **WORLD CUP WONDERS**

The Football Hall of Fame WA will stage a FIFA World Cup Exhibition called "World Cup Wonders" - at the historic Perth Town Hall from May 18 to May 25, 2010 to celebrate Australia's involvement in what is considered the greatest show on earth.

As a tribute to the WA players who took part in World Cup qualifiers, the Football Hall of Fame will host a Cocktail Reception on Saturday, May 22 to salute their achievements.

Presentations will be made to the likes of Perth-born Stan Lazaridis, who is WA's most capped player, Robbie Dunn, Robbie Zabica, Shaun Murphy, Alistair Edwards, Tony Franken and Gary Marocchi, among many other West Australians who pulled on Australian jerseys.

The Committee of the Football Hall of Fame WA thanks the City of Perth for its support in this venture, and also that of Football West.

For more information, contact Football Hall of Fame WA chairman Louis Prospero on 9237 9205.

	Р	w	D	L	F	Α	GD	Pts
1 Perth SC	7	6	0	1	19	13	6	18
2 Western Knights	7	5	1	1	21	11	10	16
3 Floreat Athena	7	5	0	2	21	10	11	15
4 Sorrento	7	3	2	2	13	13	0	11
5 Balcatta	7	3	1	3	13	15	-2	10
6 Armadale	7	2	3	2	11	8	3	9
7 Stirling Lions	7	2	2	3	7	9	-2	8
8 Inglewood United	7	2	1	4	8	14	-6	7
9 Mandurah City	7	2	1	4	10	17	-7	7
10 ECU Joondalup	7	1	3	3	14	17	-3	6
11 Cockburn City	7	1	2	4	7	10	-3	5
12 Swan United	7	1	2	4	6	13	-7	5

#### **WA RESULTS**

PREMIER DIVISION

Armadale 0 Inglewood United 1 (Clarke 79); Sorrento 4 (Thomas 20, 67, Foster 28, 56) Sorrento 4 (Thomas 29, 67, Foster 26, 50)
Balcatta 2 (Stellitano 76, 92); Stirling Lions 1
(Lujan 41) ECU Joondalup 1 (McCulloch 16);
Swan United 1 (Boland 42) Mandurah City
3 (Platt 23, 62, Insaurralde 45); Perth SC 2
(Onoforo 25, McMurray 70) Western Knights 1 (Montgomery 42P); Cockburn City 2 (Natale 10, Feely 24) Floreat Athena 4 (Mirco 5, 49, Mikulic 26, Neiderberger 67)

Armadale 0 Inglewood United 2; Sorrento 2 Balcatta 6; Stirling Lions 1 ECU Joondalup 1; Swan United 4 Mandurah City 2; Perth SC 3 Western Knights 4; Cockburn City 3

Under 18'S
Armadale 0 Inglewood United 4; Sorrento 2
Balcatta 4; Stirling Lions 0 ECU Joondalup
2; Swan United 1 Mandurah City 0; Perth
SC 1 Western Knights 1; Cockburn City 10 Floreat Athena 1

First Team Wanneroo City 3 (Booysen 35, Cairney 44P Dos Santos 85) Fremantle Spirit 1(Clark 22); Morley-Windmills 1(Vander Ross 1) Bunbury Forum Force 0; Gosnells City 2 (Walters 10, Francis 26) Forrestfield United 1(Harold 56); Ashfield 2 (Wooden 65, Greenwood 72) Rockingham City 3 (Senior 25, Bonsa 83, Vaz 58); Canning City 5 (Diamond 27, 35, Rickman 56, Newcombe 72, OG 83) Queens Park 1 (Sikazwe 80); Dianella White Eagles 0 Bayswater City 3 (Maralunda 16, 76, Jorques 90)

Wanneroo City 5 Fremantle Spirit 3; Morley-Windmills 1 Bunbury Forum Force 5; Gos-nells City 2 Forrestfield United 1; Ashfield 3 Rockingham City 1; Canning City 8 Queens Park 1; Dianella White Eagles 4 Bayswater

Under 18's Wanneroo City 2 Fremantle Spirit 1; Morley-Windmills 1 Bunbury Forum Force 5; Gos-nells City 2 Forrestfield United 2; Ashfield 0 Rockingham City 3; Canning City 7 Queens Park 0; Dianella White Eagles 1 Bayswater

#### **NEXT ROUND**

Sat 8 May 3PM Floreat Athena v Sor-

E & D Litis Stadium

Sat 8 May 3PM ECU Joondalup v Cockburn City ECU Joondalup Sat 8 May 3PM Western Knights v Swan United Nash Field

Sat 8 May 3PM Inglewood United v Stirling Lions The Clipsal Stadium Sat 8 May 3PM Mandurah City v

**Armadale** Hyundai Stadium

Sun 9 May 3PM Balcatta v Perth SC Grindleford Reserve

#### DIVISION ONE LADDER

	Р	W	D	L	F	A	GD I	Pts
Bunbury Forum Force	5	4	0	1	17	3	14	12
Bayswater City	5	4	0	1	17	5	12	12
Gosnells City	5	4	0	1	12	6	6	12
Dianella White Eagles	5	3	1	1	13	8	5	10
Wanneroo City	5	2	1	2	8	8	0	7
Canning City	5	2	1	2	9	11	-2	7
Forrestfield United	5	2	0	3	11	12	-1	6
Rockingham City	5	2	0	3	7	13	-6	6
Ashfield	5	1	1	3	13	13	0	4
0 Morley-Windmills	5	1	1	3	4	11	-7	4
1 Fremantle Spirit	5	0	3	2	7	12	-5	3
2 Queens Park	5	1	0	4	7	21	-14	3

## Canberra to the fore in final burst

By Russ Gibbs

A four-goal burst in twelve minutes towards the end of the match allowed Canberra FC to continue to lead the way at the head of the Gatorade Premier League following their 4-0 defeat of ANU FC at Deakin Stadium.

The visiting Student's had held the league champions to a scoreless match with only fifteen minutes remaining before Canberra FC delighted the home support with their goal blitz. The League's leading scorer, Paul Ivanic, broke the deadlock a quarter of an hour from time before strike partner Michael Spaleta got in on the act bagging a brace within sixty seconds of each other before completing a ten minute hat-trick with a third goal three minutes from time, taking his season total to five in three matches.

The result allows Canberra FC to open a two-point gap at the top of the table after early season pace-setters Monaro Panthers were held to a scoreless draw by Canberra City at Hawker Football Centre on Friday evening. Indeed, City was mightily unfortunate not to claim all three points having at least five decent efforts cleared off the goal line. Pat Ross-Magee will still be wondering how he didn't get his name on the score sheet being denied by a combination of Geoff Howarth, David Baillie and Ante Ruskan who performed heroics at the back for the Panthers. At the other end Panthers striker Goran Veljanovski struck the post with the home team's best chance. City did find the net ten minutes from time when Adam Dobell slotted home but his celebrations were cut short by the assistant referee who flagged for offside.

On Saturday afternoon Belconnen United put in a below-par performance in beating Cooma Tigers 3-1 at McKellar Park with a second half described as 'poor' by Blue Devils boss Scott Conlon after a brilliant opening forty-five minutes. After goals from strike-pairing David Leet and Danny Macor in the first stanza, punctuated by a Tigers response from Marcial Munoz, Belconnen went off the boil and were grateful for Dustin Wells' match-sealer in the 73rd minute. The win leaves Belconnen in third place on seven points, two behind arch-nemesis Canberra FC.

In the bottom of the table head-to-head between Woden Valley and Tuggeranong United at Woden Park it was the hosts who recorded a much-needed victory winning 2-1 in a tense match. An early penalty in the second minute, struck home by Carlos Salazar gave Woden a dream start, although there appeared to be a Woden handball in the build up, and when Steve Bowman made it 2-0 in the 38th minute the writing appeared on the wall for Darren Viskovich's young Tuggeranong outfit. A half-time re-shuffle allowed midfielder Martin Corrujo to reduce the arrears with a fine finish whilst United were aggrieved not to get a penalty of their own late in the match when Tim Anderson was body-checked in the penalty area but the referee waved away United's vain appeals and, despite much effort, Woden held on to claim their first

points of the 2010 Gatorade Premier League season.

Meanwhile, a last-minute goal from Brody Willis gave Goulburn Strikers a 2-1 win at Canberra Olympic in the weekend's final match at Hawker Football Centre on Sunday evening. Olympic had gone ahead in the first half when livewire Domenic Giampaolo scored after 32 minutes, but the visiting Goulburn, who are showing signs of being very competitive in their maiden Premier League season, equalised through the flying Sam Taylor twenty minutes from time before Willis nabbed the full haul of points with barely seconds remaining on the clock.

#### Women's Premier League Round 4\*

(\*round three was re-scheduled from the ANZAC weekend and will be played across the next four Wednesday evenings)

In the match of the round in the Women's Premier League (WPL) the Belwest Foxes had too much experience for the young tyro's from Woden Valley defeating their rivals 3-0 in a re-match of the preseason Project Coordination Federation Cup Final. Goals from Snez Veljanovska, Sophia Merkoureas and Kim Crocker gave the Foxes a convincing three-goal win over their main rivals cementing their reputation as the team to beat in the WPL for 2010.

A five-goal haul from Matildas international Caitlin Munoz was the highlight of Belconnen United's 8-0 drubbing of Brindabella Blues as the home team recorded their first win of the season following a brace of draws in their opening fixtures. Munoz was in red-hot form in front of goal and showed the quality that you'd expect from an Australian representative taking her chances with aplomb. Sabrina Spinapolice, Ilana Aitchison and Katie Woodman added to Munoz nap-hand to complete a convincing win over the league's bottom-placed

Tuggeranong United meanwhile scored a highly impressive 3-1 victory over reigning Grand Final Champions Weston Creek on Sunday afternoon. A brace of goals from Julie Ibarra added to a strike by Freyja Jacobsen was enough for Tuggeranong to claim an important three points. The victory was United's first in the Premier League and, judging by the manner in which the result was achieved, certainly won't be the last. Korri Chaivannacoopt was Weston's sole scorer in the match.

And Canberra FC has kept in touch with the league leaders after defeating ANU WFC, who remains winless after three rounds, 3-1. Aurelia Bullot claimed two goals to take her season total to four n the opening three matches with Nicole Somi adding the third. Katrina Patane's goal for ANU WFC was mere consolation as Canberra FC consolidated their excellent start to the season that see them in third place on the fledgling lad-



Brody Willis (Goulburn Strikers)



Taylor Beaton (Belconnen United)



Belwest v Woden

#### **NEXT ROUND**

Fri 7 May KO 8pm Tuggeranong Utd v Hawker Football Centre

Sun 9 May KO 3pm ANU FC v Monaro

O'Connor Enclosed 1

Sun 9 May KO 3pm Goulburn Strikers v Belconnen Utd

Cookbundoon

Sun 9 May KO 3pm Cooma Tigers v Canberra FC

Nijong Oval Sun 9 May KO 4pm Canberra City v Woden Valley

Hawker Football Centre

#### LADDER

	Р	W	D	L	F A	\ G	D P	t
1 Canberra FC	3	3	0	0	19	2	+17	Ĉ
2 Monaro Panthers	3	2	1	0	7	2	+5	7
3 Belconnen United	3	2	1	0	6	3	+3	7
4 Goulburn Strikers	3	2	0	1	9	3	+6	6
5 Canberra Olympic	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
6 Canberra City	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4
7 Cooma Tigers	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
3 Woden Valley	3	1	0	2	4	10	-6	3
ANU FC	3	0	0	3	1	7	-6	0
10 Tuggeranong Utd	3	0	0	3	3	18	-16	C

#### WPL LADDER

		Р	W	D	L	F	A G	D P	t
1	Belwest Foxes	3	3	0	0	16	1	+15	5
2	Woden Valley	3	2	0	1	11	3	+8	(
3	Canberra FC	3	2	0	1	7	13	-6	6
4	Belconnen United	3	1	2	0	9	1	+8	Ę
5	Weston Creek	3	1	1	1	4	3	+1	4
6	<b>Tuggeranong United</b>	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
7	ANU WFC	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	(
8	Brindabella Blues	3	0	0	3	1	19 -	-18	(

#### ACT RESULTS

Monaro Panthers 0 Canberra City 0 **Belconnen United 3** (David Leet 22', Danny Macor 38', Dustin

Cooma Tigers 1 (Marcial Munoz 27') Woden Valley 2 (Carlos Salazar (pen) 2', Steve Bowman

**Tuggeranong United 1** (Martin Corrujo 53')

(Paul Ivanic 75', Michael Spaleta 77', 78', ANU FC 0

Canberra Olympic 1 (Domenic Giampoalo 31') Goulburn Strikers 2 (Sam Taylor 70' Brody Willis 89')

WPL

Belwest Foxes 3 (Snez Veljanovska, Sophie Merkoureas, Kim Crocker) Woder

Weston Creek 1 (Korri Chaivannacoopt) Tuggeranong United 3 (Julie Ibarra (2), Freyja Jacobsen)

ANU FC 1 (Katrina Patane) Canberra FC (Aurelia Bullot (2), Nicole Somi)

Belconnen United 8 (Caitlin Munoz 7', 24', 37', 80', 87' Sabrina Spinapolice 55',

Brindabella Blues 0

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SATURDAY MORNING

SOCCER CLINICS **SKILLZ** (6-12), **TINY TOTS** (3-5)

## Inter makes a break from rivals

By Niki Cook

Round 4 of the Victorian Women's Premier League produced plenty of excitement, with each of the three games played over the weekend producing at least four goals. Box Hill and Ashburton were big winners, while Preston chalked up its first win in a nailbiter, and South Melbourne was rocked by the resignation of its coach.

Box Hill maintained its position at the top of the WPL ladder with a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Altona City at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday afternoon. The game was basically decided in the first half, with three of Inter's goals coming before the interval. The visitors added a fourth after the break, to condemn Altona to its fourth straight defeat. The two clubs end the round occupying opposite ends of the table, with Inter at the top, and Altona down in ninth position.

Preston Lions picked up its first win of the season in a pulsating match at McIvor Reserve, seeing off South Melbourne in a 3-2 thriller. Jacinta Mazza opened the scoring in the first half with a well taken free kick, to give the visitor a slender lead going into the half time break. South, which had not scored all season, finally opened its account early in the second half through Lucrece Laverdue, but Mazza restored Preston's advantage mere seconds after the restart. Laverdue pulled South level once again, before Mazza secured the three points for Preston by completing her hat-trick. The result was a disappointment for South, which has now lost four consecutive matches, while Preston has bounced back from its opening day defeat to record a draw and a victory in its last two games. Preston ends the round in sixth place, with South in eighth. South's heartache was compounded by the resignation of its coach, Moris Mihailidis, who has left the club after just over two seasons at the helm.

Having suffered its first loss of the season, to Box Hill Inter last Friday night, Ashburton came out with all guns blazing at Ashburton Park on Sunday, to put five unanswered goals past Bendigo Vipers. The regional side went into the game on the back of its first victory, but it was powerless to stop the onslaught of Ashburton. Two goals in the first half were followed by another three after the break, with Ellvana Curo scoring twice, and singles to Rosie Bureta, Meagan Thornton and



Elly Curo (Ashburton) stretches for the ball. Bendigo Vipers keeper Kristen O'Connor keeps a close eye on her. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Rachel Lamb. It was Ashburton's second victory of the season, and it lifts it to third on the ladder, level on points with both Heidelberg and Casey. Bendigo sits seventh.

The final match of the round was scheduled to take place on Monday night, with Sandringham hosting Casey Comets at Kingston Heath Re-

Round 5 gets underway at Wembley Park, with Sandringham facing a four day turnaround from its Monday night clash with Casey, when it has to back up to play Box Hill Inter on Friday night. Travelling to Wembley Park is a tough proposition at the best of times, but an especially difficult one with limited recovery and training time. Casey Comets has a little more time to recuperate, as it hosts South Melbourne at Comets Stadium on Sunday, with Preston Lions taking on Ashburton at the same time at BT Connor Reserve. The final match of the round also takes place on Sunday, with Heidelberg United and Bendigo Vipers meeting at Olympic Village. Altona City has the bye.



#### **WPL RESULTS**

Altona City 0 **Box Hill Inter 4** 

South Melbourne 2 (L Laverdure 2) Preston Lions 3 (J Mazza 3)

Ashburton 5 (R Lamb R Bureta E Curo 2 M Thornton) **Bendigo Vipers 0** 

#### Reserves:

Altona City 1 Box Hill Inter 2, South Melbourne 6 Preston Lions 0, Ashburton 10 BASL 1

#### WPL NEXT ROUND

Box Hill Inter v Sandringham Wembley Park Fri 7 May KO 8:30PM

Casey Comets v South Melbourne Comets Stadium Sun 9 May KO 1:00PM

**Preston Lions v Ashburton** BT Connor Reserve Sun 9 May KO 1:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Bendigo Vipers Sun 9 May KO 1:00PM

Bye v Altona City

#### WPL LADDER

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pt
Box Hill Inter	4	3	1	0	10	0	10
Sandringham	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Ashburton	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Heidelberg Utd	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Casey Comets	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Preston Lions	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Bendigo Vipers	4	1	1	2	1	6	4
Altona City	4	0	0	4	2	12	(
South Melbourne	4	0	0	4	2	12	(

WPL RESERVES													
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts						
Ashburton	3	3	0	0	19	2	9						
Heidelberg Utd	3	2	1	0	7	4	7						
Casey Comets	2	2	0	0	5	1	6						
Box Hill Inter	4	2	0	2	7	5	6						
Sandringham	3	2	0	1	5	3	6						
BASL	4	2	0	2	6	14	6						
South Melbourne	4	1	1	2	8	7	4						
Preston Lions	3	0	0	3	0	9	0						
Altona City	4	0	0	4	3	15	0						

Vipers keeper Kristen O'Connor tries to knock the ball away from Ashburton's Emma Natoli (right) and Ilona Jakab. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

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Round 1

## Lights, Camera, Action!

By Adam Husseini

Round one saw 5 close clashes and 1 white wash, the V-League was back in town and all the stars were at 407 Victoria Street to play. The Futbol Town Show crew were in full force recording games, interviewing players & taking photos. Round one was sure to be a cracker with multiple transfers, three newly promoted sides and a whole lot more to play for. Here's how the action unfolded:

#### Albert Park FC 3 vs. 5 Pascoe Vale

The 2010 edition of the LEGEA V-League premiership kicked off just as the last had finished with Albert Park FC vs. Pascoe Vale FC. It wasn't a 9-0 repeat to the champions (PVFC) this time though as Albert Park worked hard to shut down space and create counter attacking chances of their own. Minja Savic (APFC) was mercurial throughout, he scored the opener after Lascaris was caught in no mans land. Pascoe Vale equalized through Spijodic who had transferred from Ashburton during the close season. He did well on his debut but couldn't stop Minja scoring his second and restoring the lead for Albert Park. 2-1 to the underdogs at half time, it felt as though onlookers wanted to see the champions lose the longer the game went on. Pascoe Vale does have that knack of scoring when need be and Simsek (PVFC) & Spijodic both scored cracker-jack volleys to take the lead. Pascoe Vale survived a round one hiccup, Albert Park can be proud of their efforts and look forward to a better season

#### FC Carlton 6 vs. 15 Metropolitan

under the guidance of Zoran Matic.

FC Carlton chopped and changed after being blitzed round one in the Souvlaki-Hut FOz Cup. It was a tale of four siblings as the Shekari brothers (FCC) tried to get off to a fresh start with Shayan Orouji in goal, Amir Mostafa, Roham Ghorbanpor, Mohamed Alghorabi & Sahen Ghasimzadeh out on the court. Metropolitan looked to recover after their stunning FOZ Cup final loss to Pascoe Vale, and they did, the Redzepovic brothers instrumental in obliterating a very poor Carlton side. They scored 8 goals

between them, three to Husmir Ikanovic (MFC), two to Dragan Jeles & a solitary to Jusuf Avdic to scored 15 goals collectively. Carlton would've been red-faced if it wasn't for Alghorabi's five goals. This game showed the stark contrast between the two sides as early as round one with Metropolitan early title favourites and FC Carlton favourite for the drop after this showing.

#### FC Prahran 2 vs. 3 Fitzroy FC

The third match of the night saw FC Prahran take on a new look Fitzrov in a titanic battle for three points. This was a tight and tense affair as both sides gave 100% right from the get go. Fitzroy had a few early chances; Spiro Kargas (FFC) was superb in goals launching the ball forward persistently, Dusan Preradovic, Alex Husseini & Brenno Polatti linked up extremely well for Fitzroy with all three just missing inside the first 5 minutes. It was a refereeing mix up that led to the first goal, Adam Husseini dinked the ball forward & Alex Husseini got a nice flick on to make it 1-0. FC Prahran looked bewildered and surprised at how to tackle Fitzroy, who had their second goal after a clever side ball from the King Mus Elor (FFC) found Polatti (FFC) at the back post, and he volleyed home superbly. Prahran dominated from there on in, Avram (FCP) scored a lovely outside of the foot strike from a tight angle to make it 2-1. Dusan then dinked down the line for Alex who crossed from the left finding A. Husseini who sealed the deal. Armstrong (FCP) scored Prahran's second just before half time, but the second half saw Fitzroy hang on for dear life and secure a vital 3 points.

#### Ashburton FC 1 vs. 3 North Melb

Last season this fixture was a hotly anticipated clash, and it was no different this time with an intense rivalry building between managers Milton Sakkos (NMFC) & Paul Vidic (AFC). The green machine Ashburton was a completely different side apart from Diego Assaeda and it largely comprised of last seasons Fitzroy team with Vithoulkas, Karas & Bessa. North were down to bare bones, without Shavan Aliniead, Kui Mu, Mirza Pedic, Jon Barrientos & Adam Cooper to name a few. They did have The Fabulous one Fernando De Moraes who scored

the vital goal to win the game, rolling to the right of Manny Karas (AFC) and toe poking home. Ashburton peppered with Vithoulkas & Schmidhuber but never looked like beating Dianoosh Rasoulzadeh in the North goal. Milton Sakkos received two yellows throughout all the drama and will pick up an automatic suspension, but he won't care, he out foxed the green machine again and got 3 vital points on the board.



Fernando De Moreas NMFC - A real Futsal Superstar

#### Brimbank FC 7 vs. 3 Mickleham

The fourth match of the night pitted new kids on the block Mickleham against State League Rivals Brimbank in a bruising match. The game was played at a high tempo, with both teams scoring early. Vadim Mazurskyv (BFC) was majestical and he scored a variety of goals for Brimbank. Ace Petrovski (MFC) had opportunities few and far between but he scored two goals for Mickleham to get them back into the match. Brimbanks raw strength and power saw them over the line, Mickleham rarely strung more then 4 passes together. Apostolakis (MFC) was crestfallen in goals, but he could do little to stop the onslaught. Minh Nguyen (MFC) was left fuming after the game, Mickleham need to get there act together fast as the next few weeks get tougher & tougher fixture wise. Admir Kablar (BFC) can be proud of his team's efforts and look forward to next weeks clash against Albert Park.



Vadim Mazurskiv 4 goals for Brimbank FC

#### FC Essendon 4 vs. 3 Hume FC

A contender for match of the round saw the 2009 LEGEA V-League Champions (FCE) vs the 09/10 SouvlakiHut State League Champions (HFC). For Essendon it was a case of been there done that, as the young & exuberant Hume played high up the park for long spells. They created multiple 2 v 1 opportunities but lacked goal scoring fire power required to play in the top flight. Turhan Sumble (HFC) was the only player that tested Essendon with ferocious pile drivers from everywhere. FC Essendon sat back and hit on the counter with Filipovic & Stevanovic getting forward when possible. They took their opportunities when they came and how precious they were coming back from 2-1 & 3-2 down. Alexander stole the show rallying his troops to a late 4-3 match winner. Hume hit the post, cross bar and upright before the final whistle. They couldn't believe they didn't get a point out of the game and the

3 Pascoe Vale FC 5 FC Essendon 8 FC Prahran 10 Albert Park FC 11 Mickleham FC 12 FC Carlton

#### Round 1 Clashes April 28

•6:30 Albert Park FC v Pascoe Vale FC 3 - 5 •7:15 FC Carlton v Metropolitan FC 6 - 15 •8:00 FC Prahran v Fitzroy FC 2 - 3 •8:45 Ashburton FC v Nth Melbourne FC 1 - 3 •9:30 Brimbank FC v Mickleham FC 7 - 3 •10:15 FC Essendon v Hume FC 4 - 3

#### **Round 2 Clashes** May 5

6:30 Brimbank FC v Albert Park FC •7:15 FC Carlton v Nth Melbourne FC •8:00 FC Essendon v Mickleham FC •8:45 FC Prahran v Metropolitan FC •9:30 Fitzroy FC v Hume FC •10:15 Ashburton FC v Pascoe Vale FC



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PHOTOS BY MATT MONTGOMERY

result sparked unrest amongst the players. They did look a formidable outfit early on, and in their new black LEGEA kits look an intimidating side that will have to hustle & bustle with Fitzroy next week for 3 points.







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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Ringwood City 0 Parkmore 1 (D Levoli), St Kev-ins 4 Harrisfield Hurricanes 4, Caulfield Grammarians 2 (CM Saristavros M Bagan) Endeavour Hills 2 (W Bichok 2), Old Mentonians 1 Middle Park FC 4, Reserves: Ringwood City 3 Parkmore 2, St Kevins 1 Harrisfield Hurricanes 0, Caulfield Grammarians 1 En deavour Hills 3, Old Mentonians 0 Middle Park FC 5

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: South Springvale 1 (M Tartaglia) Bundoora Utd 2 (C Cisternino), Monbulk 1 (NJ Cranston) Whitehorse Utd 1 (S Lewis), South Yarra 1 Bayswater Strikers 6 (AE Mckillen E Murray-Bartlett C Dethridge S Dethridge 2), Uni. of Melbourne 4 (E Fenwick) Ballarat & District 2 (T Curtain), Re-serves: South Springvale 1 Bundoora Utd 3, Monbulk 2 Whitehorse Utd 1, South Yarra 0 Bayswater Strikers 10, Uni. of Melbourne 3 Ballarat Lady Devils 0,

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Mel-WOMENS STATE LEAGUE UIV 2 NORTH-WEST: MODE bourne Bears 0 North Geelong Warriors 5, La Trobe Uni-versity 4 (SA Harris 2 M Frank) Fawkner 0, Western Ea-gles 0 FC Bulleen Lions 1 (P Bernini), Cairnlea 5 (K Cirav D Muttuel 2 M Huremovic T Hussein) Darebin Falcons 1, Whittlesea Ranges FC 0 Western Suburbs 1 (EL Noulas)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: North Caulfield 0 Ashburton 4, Noble Park 3 Mornington 1, Monash University 1 Berwick City 2, Sandringham 4 Albert Park 2 (AF Tardif)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Keilor Park 9 Old Carey 1, Kyneton District 0 Melton 2 (ML Williamson N Palmer), Yarra Jets 3 (a callaghan 2) Eitham Redbacks 2 (M Parker), Sunshine Geor-gies 0 Diamond Vallay Lltd 3 Ruswick Zebras 4 (I gies 0 Diamond Valley Utd 3, Brunswick Zebras 4 (L Johnston N Italiano J Cococcia) Maribyrnong Utd 0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Langwarrin 2 (K Poulton 2) South Melbourne 2, Beaumaris 4 (M Lee Gow 2 G Randall 2) Endeav-our Utd 3 (L Mousaco 3), Seaford Utd 5 Ashburton 0, East Bentleigh 1 Knox City 4 (MK Tyrell A Moon), Box Hill Inter 2 (S Skaras) Croydon City Arrows 1

METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH WEST: Melbourne Knights 8 Plenty Valley Lions 0, Brunswick Zebras 10 (EK Johns 5 BA McPher-son 2 M Stoney S Giles F Farnan) Tullamarine Jets 1, Mitchell Rangers 1 (V McNaughton) Wat-sonia Heights 0, Yarra Jets 6 Northern Roosters 1,

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Monash University 0 Berwick City 9, Kingston City 6 Sandringham 1, Endeavour Hills 3 Dandenong City 4,

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Sydenham Park 4 Whittlesea Zebras 2, Swinburne Uni-versity WSC 1 Sandringham 2 (D Tracey N Hajncl), Mo-nash University 2 (J Pettigrew A Woods) Elwood City 1,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Cleeland Utd 0 Monash University 0, Doveton 1 Juventus Old Boys 1, Kyneton District 4 (S Harman M Stellings D Herrera 2) La Trobe University 0, South Yarra 3 Altona Lions 0,

MENSTHIRDSLEAGUEDIV2NORTH-WEST: Melbourne University 1 Brunswick City 1, Glenroy 6 (M Cavar D Ko-zul 2 T Kosor D Peric J Vojtek) Essendon Utd 1, Upfield 1 Moreland City 1, Mitchell Rangers 0 La Trobe University 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Boroondara Eagles 4 Nunawading City FC 3, South Yarra 2 Ber-wick City 0, Central Park AC Malvern 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 3, Caulfield Grammarians 2 Old Scotch 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Kyneton District 6 (J Davey A Palmer N Matricardi 2 K Turley SL Malloy) Melton 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Lalor 2, La Trobe University 5 Northcote City 3,

MENSTHIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Riversdale 5 Melbourne University 1, Brandon Park 1 Old Haileybury 0, Central Park Rangers 2 Monash University 1 (B De Ridder)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Eltham Redback FC 3 Westvale 0, Kyneton District 3 Watsonia Heights 0, Cairnlea 1 Brimbank Stallions 5, Williamstown 6 Diamond Valley Utd 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: Elwood City 1 Monash University 3, South Yarra 3 Ashburton 2,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST Kyneton District 3 (SC Dingle PJ Bauer 2) Heidelberg Utd 3, Melbourne University 1 North Sunshine Eagles 4, Melbourne Bars 0 Uni, of Melbourne 4, Mitchell Rangers 0 Altona City 4 (J Carr)

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: East Bentleigh 3 Old Brighton Grammarians 4, MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIVISION 6: Moreland Utd 4

Old Scotch 0, Sandringham City 1 13 Springvale City 0, Sandringham City 2 5 Epping City 3, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Western Eagles 5, Beaumaris 0 Carlton Youth 4

MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST: Avondale Heights 4 Heidelberg Utd 2, Banyule City 1 Fitzroy City 5,

MENS MASTERS SOUTH-EAST: Southern Suburbs 2 Bayside Argonauts 2, Doveton 2 North Caulfield 4, MENS MASTERS CENTRAL: Juventus Old Boys 2 Ashburton 2, South Yarra 0 East-ern Lions 0, Brighton 3 Middle Park FC 3

Mens Metropolitan North-West Tullamarine Jets Heidelberg Stars Moreland Wolves 2 10 Liaht Utd 0 Northern Utd Yarra Jets Keon Park Ascot Vale

Northern Utd 0 0 2 0 Light Utd 1 13 10 1 13 6 2 11 8 /arra Jets Moreland Wolves 1 6 8 1 10 9 3 7 12 3 3 13 4 1 17 Altona North 1 2 1 1 0 3 0 1 3 0 0 4 Tullamarine Jets Oak Park Keon Park

Metropolitan Mens D L 1 0 1 0 3 0 Middle Park FC **Dandenong Warriors** Caulfield Grammarians Old Mentonians St Kevins Ringwood City Harrisfield Hurricanes Parkmore Endeavour Hills 1 3 4 10

Mens Metropolitan League W D L 4 0 0 F A PT 13 5 12 Ringwood City Middle Park FC 10 Harrisfield Hurricanes 0 Endeavour Hills 3 10 Old Mentonians Caulfield Grammarians State Womens League Div

W D L 3 0 0 2 1 0 **Doncaster Rovers** 0 11 **Ballarat & District** Uni. of Melbourne Bayswater Strikers South Springvale 0 0 1 0 Whitehorse Utd Brighton

Womens	State	Leagu		Div		1		esen	
			Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT
Bundoora Ut	:d		3	3	0	0	19	2	9
Doncaster R	overs		2	2	0	0	17	0	6
Bayswater S	trikers		3	2	0	1	13	7	6
Uni. of Melbo	ourne		3	2	0	1	9	5	6
South Spring	gvale		3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Monbulk			3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Whitehorse I	Jtd		3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Brighton			2	0	1	1	3	8	_ 1
Ballarat Lady	/ Devils		3	0	0	3	2	8	0
South Yarra			3	0	0	3	0	32	0

Womens	State	League	9	Div	2		Nor	th-W	est	
			Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PT	
Cairnlea			3	3	0	0	16	4	9	
La Trobe Ui	niversity		3	3	0	0	9	3	9	
FC Bulleen	Lions		3	2	1	0	8	1	7	
Western Ea	gles		3	2	0	1	9	3	6	
Western Su	burbs		3	2	0	1	5	7	6	
Fawkner			3	1	1	1	3	6	4	
North Geeld	ong War	riors	3	1	0	2	8	6	3	
Darebin Fal	cons		3	0	0	3	4	10	0	
Whittlesea I	Ranges	FC	3	0	0	3	2	11	0	
Melbourne	Bears		3	0	0	3	0	13	0	

Womens State	League	Div W	2 D	: L	Sour		ast PT
Sandringham Albert Park	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Noble Park	3	2	0	1	5	7	6
Ashburton	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
North Caulfield	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Southern Suburbs	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Berwick City	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Mornington	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Monash University	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Mooroolbark	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Womens State	League	Div	3		Nort	h-W	est

W D

3 3 0 0 20 5 9

Keilor Park

Yarra Jets		3	3	0	0	10	5	9	
Brunswick Zebras		3	2	0	1	9	5	6	
Sunshine Georgies		3	2	0	1	8	4	6	
Eltham Redbacks		3	1	1	1	8	4	4	
Diamond Valley Utd			1	1	1	5	5	4	
Kyneton District		3	1	0	2	6	7	3	
Melton		3	1	0	2	3	11	3	
Maribyrnong Utd		3	0	0	3	3	14	0	
Old Carey		3	0	0	3	4	16	0	
Womens State	Leagu	ıe	Div	3		Sou	ıth-E	ast	
		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ	
Seaford Utd		3	3	0	0	11	2	9	
Langwarrin		3	2	1	0	18	5	7	
Box Hill Inter		3	2	0	1	12	5	6	
Knox City		3	2	0	1	11	5	6	
South Melbourne		3	1	1	1	6	12	4	
Anhhuntan		_	4	^	0	40	44	- 0	

roydon Cit	y Arrows	3	1	0	2	4	7	3	
eaumaris		3	1	0	2	9	20	3	
ndeavour	Utd	2	0	0	2	10	10	0	
ast Bentlei	2	0	0	2	3	17	0		
Vomens	Metropolitan		Leag	jue		Nor	th-W	est	
		Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ	
lelbourne l	Knights	3	2	1	0	10	0	7	
runswick C	City	2	2	0	0	19	2	6	
runswick Z	ebras .	3	2	0	1	14	10	6	
1itchell Rar	ngers	3	2	0	1	5	3	6	
lenty Valley Lions			2	0	1	8	12	6	
itzroy City			1	1	0	6	0	4	
arra Jets		3	1	0	2	9	13	3	

runamanic	0013	0		0	~	0	10	0
Northern Ro	osters	3	0	0	3	2	12	0
Watsonia Heights			0	0	3	1	14	0
Womens	Metropolitan		Leag	gue		Sou	ıth-E	ast
		Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
Berwick City	,	3	3	0	0	15	3	9
Kingston Cit	у	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Dandenong	City	3	2	0	1	10	9	6
Sandringhar	m ·	3	1	1	1	5	8	4
Mooroolbark	(	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Endeavour I	Hills	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
Eltham Red	backs	2	1	0	1	1	5	3

Womens Metropolita			Le		Central			
		Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
Sydenha	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	
Monash I	3	2	0	1	5	3	6	
Sandring	ham	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Port Melb	oourne	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bayside A	Argonauts	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Uni. of M	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	
Albert Pa	rk	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Whittlese	a Zebras	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Swinburn	e University WSC	3	0	1	2	2	8	1
Elwood C	City	3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Mens	Mens Thirds		gue			)iv		1
		P	۱۸/	П	- 1	F	Δ	DТ

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PT
South Yarra	3	3	0	0	20	1	9
Cleeland Utd	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Altona Lions	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
Kyneton District	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Juventus Old Boys	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Doveton	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Marcellin Old Collegians	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Southern Suburbs	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Monash University	3	0	1	2	1	9	1
La Trobe University	3	0	0	3	2	17	0
Mens Thirds League		Div	2		Nor	th-W	est

	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
Glenroy	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
La Trobe University	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Brunswick City	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Mitchell Rangers	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Moreland City	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Collingwood City	2	1	0	1	9	4	3
Melbourne University	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Upfield	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
Keilor Park	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
Essendon Utd	3	0	0	3	2	17	0
Marine Thinds I common		Dis.	0		0	41- 5	

			Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ
South Ya	rra		3	3	0	0	10	2	9
Caulfield	Gramma	rians	3	3	0	0	8	4	9
Old Melburnians			2	2	0	0	7	3	6
Boroondara Eagles			3	2	0	1	7	6	6
Bayside Argonauts			2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Central Park AC Malvern			3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Old Cam	berwell G	rammar	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Berwick (	City		3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Old Scotch			3	0	0	3	3	7	0
Nunawading City FC		3	0	0	3	5	12	0	
Mens	Thirds	League	e Div		3		Nor	th-W	/est

	 Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PT	
Plenty Valley Lions	2	2	0	0	8	5	6	
Nerribee City	2	1	1	0	10	4	4	
Jni. of Melbourne	2	1	1	0	8	2	4	
Cyneton District	3	1	1	1	8	3	4	
Melbourne Lions	2	1	1	0	4	2	4	
_alor	3	1	1	1	7	9	4	
Northcote City	3	1	0	2	13	14	3	
a Trobe University	3	1	0	2	6	11	3	
Hoppers Crossing	3	0	2	1	4	6	2	
Melton	3	0	1	2	3	15	1	

_	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ	
Brandon Park	3	2	1	0	10	2	7	
RMIT Redbacks	2	2	0	0	18	4	6	
Old Haileybury	3	2	0	1	10	1	6	
Riversdale	3	2	0	1	12	11	6	
Monash University	3	1	1	1	9	5	4	
Central Park Rangers	2	1	0	1	3	5	3	
Melbourne University	3	1	0	2	6	17	3	
Old Melburnians	2	0	0	2	3	10	0	
Old Trinity Grammarians	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	
Bayside Argonauts		0	0	2	1	10	0	
Mens Thirds League		Div	4		Nor	th-W	/est	

Mens	Thirds	League	Div		4		North-West					
			Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	PΤ			
Kyneton	District		3	3	0	0	13	3	9			
Brimban	k Stallions		3	3	0	0	12	2	9			
Altona C	ity		2	2	0	0	15	2	6			
Cairnlea			3	2	0	1	14	8	6			
Williams	town		3	1	1	1	12	9	4			
Diamono	d Valley Ut	d	3	1	0	2	4	10	3			
Eltham F	Redback F	С	3	1	0	2	8	15	3			
Uni. of M	1elbourne		2	0	1	1	8	10	1			
Westval	е		3	0	0	3	0	9	0			

iviens	Thiras	League		DIV	4		50u
			Ρ	W	D	L	F
South Ya	rra		3	3	0	0	12
Marcellin	Eagles		2	2	0	0	7
Monash I	University		3	2	0	1	10
Beaumar	is		2	2	0	0	6
Ashburto	n		3	1	0	2	6
Old Scot	ch		2	1	0	1	4
Old Melb	urnians		2	1	0	1	3
RMIT Re	dbacks		2	0	0	2	2
Elwood C	City		3	0	0	3	4
Caulfield	Cobras		2	0	0	2	2
Mens	Thirds	League		Div	5		Nort
			Ρ	W	D	L	F
A 11 0:			•	_	_	•	40

/lens	Thirds	League		Div	5		Nor	th-W
			Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α
Altona (	City		3	3	0	0	10	2
Melbourne Bears				2	0	1	14	5
Jni. of Melbourne				2	0	1	11	10
Keon Park				1	1	0	4	2
North Sunshine Eagles				1	1	1	6	6
Cyneton District				1	1	1	5	5
leidelb	erg Utd		3	1	1	1	6	8
/lorelan	nd Wolves		2	1	0	1	9	6
/lelbour	rne Univers	sitv	3	0	0	3	3	10
Mitchell Rangers			3	0	0	3	0	14
	9							
/lens	Thirds	League		Div	5		Sou	ıth-E

VICTIS	Hillus	League	7	DIV	0		300	IIII-E	
			Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	
Middle F	Park FC		2	2	0	0	12	2	
Bunyip a	& District S	C	2	2	0	0	8	2	
Danden	ong Thund	er	1	1	0	0	12	2	
East Be	ntleigh		3	1	0	2	10	8	
Franksto	on Pines		1	1	0	0	2	0	
Old Can	ey		2	1	0	1	6	8	
Old Brig	hton Gram	marians	3	1	0	2	6	15	
Eltham I	Redback F	C	2	0	0	2	2	8	
Keysboı	ough		2	0	0	2	3	16	
Mens	Thirds	: L	eagu	е		Divis	sion		
			Ď	۱۸/	П	- 1	_	Λ.	

	P	W	D	L	F	Α
arlton Youth	3	3	0	0	11	5
andringham City 1	3	2	1	0	24	6
estern Eagles	2	2	0	0	10	2
andringham City 2	3	2	0	1	16	13
oreland Utd	3	2	1	0	9	3
rimbank Stallions	2	1	0	1	6	4
pping City	3	1	0	2	8	9
eaumaris	3	1	0	2	6	9
andenong Sparrows	0				0	0
ni. of Melbourne	2	0	0	2	4	9
ld Scotch	3	0	0	3	1	12
pringvale City	3	0	0	3	3	26

Mens	Masters	North-						
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	I	
Fitzroy City	3	2	1	0	9	4		
Avondale Heights	3	1	2	0	8	6		
Heidelberg Utd	2	1	0	1	7	5		
Whittlesea Utd	2	1	0	1	4	7		
Whittlesea Zebras	2	0	2	0	3	3		
Doc Utd	2	0	1	1	5	6		
Moreland City	2	0	1	1	3	4		
Banyule City	2	0	1		1	3		
Mens	Masters		South-Ea					
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	I	
	_	_	_			_		

White Star Dandenor	ng 2	1	1	0	2	1
Bayside Argonauts	3	1	1	1	5	5
Doveton	1	0	0	1	2	4
Glen Waverley	1	0	0	1	0	2
Kingston City	1	0	0	1	2	5
Mens	Masters					Се
	Р	W	D	L	F	F
Brighton	3	2	1	0	16	5
Juventus Old Boys	3	1	2	0	7	5
Eastern Lions	3	1	2	0	5	3
Middle Park FC	3	1	1	1	12	8
South Yarra	2	1	1	0	2	1
D	0				-	

Southern Suburbs

Ashburton Collingwood City

**Asian Champions League** 

goalweekly.com



### Reds finish top despite falling 0-1

Monash University

Adelaide United FC has finished top of Group H and will play its sudden death AFC Champions League Round of 16 match at home, despite going down 1-0 to Shandong Luneng at Hindmarsh Stadium.

In an intriguing final Match Day of Group H, the Reds were left to count their lucky stars after the other challenger for top spot, the Pohang Steelers, were beaten 4-3 by Sanfrecce Hiroshima in a seven goal thriller, which meant there would be no change to the final table standings.

Finishing equal on points with Pohang, United's positive head to head record against the reigning ACL champions, in which the Reds recorded a win and a draw, proved the difference.

Needing a similar or better result than Pohang to keep its hold on first place in the group, the Reds were given a scare when striker Li Wei finished off a clinical counter attack with a thunderous strike in the 52nd minute against the run of play.

back from two goals down to draw level with Sanfrecce, the United players unaware of the score in Japan. Wei's goal would end up being the only goal of the game at Hindmarsh, a resilient Shandong defence holding on, as the Reds chased

Coach Aurelio Vidmar and United's coaching staff kept informed of the score in Hiroshima throughout the 90 minutes, but it was not until after the final whistle that the players found out they had finished top despite the loss.

"The players didn't know what the score was until the end of the game, we kept it away from them, and we heard it was 3-1 at half time and then with 20 minutes to go we heard it was 3-3," Vid-

"It was only until injury time that news came across that Sanfrecce had scored the winner so it was very tense because we thought we might be heading away for the Round of 16. But the players worked their socks off, they did everything they could except put the ball in the



Shandong's Gao Di celebrates with team mates after grabbing the winner. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

back of the net."

"We finished top of the group and that's a magnificent achievement. I don't think there would have been too many people except the boys in our change room that would have thought we could finish the Group Stage at the top of the group."



Adelaide United Mathew Leckie and Shandong's goal scorer Gao Di contest for the ball. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

"They were super performances over the six games and now we've got to look forward to a Round of 16 game, which is unfortunately a knockout, sot here's no second prize, but if we continue to play the way we have, we should be fine."

### **CHAMPIONS**

#### Group E PWDLFA+/- Pts SEONGNAM (KOR) 6 5 0 1 11 6 5 15 BEIJING GUOAN (CHN) 6 3 1 2 7 5 2 10

6 2 0 4 8 8 0 6

### **Group H**

MELB VICTORY (AUS) 6 1 1 4 3 10 -7 4

KAWASAKI (JPN)

	Р	W	D	L	F	A +/- Pt	s
DELAIDE UTD (AUS)	6	3	1	2	6	4 2 10	)
OHANG (KOR)	6	3	1	2	8	7 1 10	)
SANFRECCE (JPN)	6	3	0	3	11	11 0 9	
HANDONG (CHN)	6	2	0	4	5	8 -3 6	

**Match Details** Adelaide United FC 0 Shandong Luneng 1 (Li Wei 52') Referee: Nawaf Abdulla Ghayyath Shukralla (Bahrain) Crowd: 10,313 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

### geal weekly

### Mr Cleansheets to make a clean sweep

By Paul Mavroudis

During the past two decades, mainstream Australian soccer writing – and for that matter, most other Australian sports writing - seems to have almost inevitably returned to the twin pillars of the shortsighted rants of your so called 'professional' analysts, and the ghostwritten autobiographies of local and overseas veterans.

The recent emergence of the blogosphere has taken the wind out of the professional's sails to an extent, by showing that simplistic and alarming analysis can also be done for free; but where is the counterpoint to the reliance on biography, the works that show an imaginative and creative response to our soccer lives, and which is not directed solely at children?

Adrian Deans' new novel, Mr Cleansheets, may very well herald the arrival - or at least the return, for those with very wide reading and memory - of the Australian soccer novel to our literary consciousness. The novel's protagonist, Eric Judd, the titular Mr Cleansheets, is on the verge of turning 40, a labourer during the working week and amateur goalkeeping legend on weekends. After winning the title for his basement New South Wales side, his coach forcibly retires him. So Eric makes the foolhardy decision to head off to England to fulfil the dying wish of his Uncle Jimmy – to take up the outstanding offer of trialing for Manchester United – made when Eric was still a teenager.

Things don't get off to a good start; he gets into a fight at the airport, gets no further than the merchandise store at Old Trafford, and finds himself more or less where he started, albeit on the other side of the world - working as a removalist and illegally playing non-league football for the hopeless Bentham United. But his luck does start to change. He lands himself a new girl. The team starts winning. And in his own mind, he's starting to live the dream. But things can never be that straightforward. The past and the future catch up to Eric in all manner of alarming and hilarious ways.

Deans has a breezy and natural flair for this kind of writing, which allows the reader to get swept up in the amazing coincidences which the story

throws up. His descriptions of the match action itself, while perhaps a little neat, nevertheless ring true; it's a difficult art to tell the story of a game that does not exist, one with a predetermined result.

ADRIAN DEANS

His strongest work though, comes in his descriptions of violence, especially those of hand to hand combat. The aforementioned breezy manner gets pushed aside for visceral and sensory writing, that is at odds with most of the rest of the novel.

the novel - Irish, Cockney, French, Toff, Portuguese, Tcherman which for the most part Deans handles well enough, but they are there more for comic effect rather than any sort of meaningful cultural exploration. Mr Cleansheets himself, being an Aussie, has no dialect issues whatsoever - his neutral tone assumed to be natural. Irvine Welsh this ain't, and at times the accents blend into each other, so that characters, especially some of the more minor ones – and there are many of them - can seem interchangeable.

Some readers, though crucially, not what I imagine is the intended audience, might blanch at Deans' explorations of masculinity - a very old school, protective form of it, with a few edges shaved off. In its own way, Mr Cleansheets is a love letter to masculinity - and the bastions of that masculinity that women can't ever enter or understand. In this case it centres on sporting clubs and the drinking and mateship culture – and Deans combines it with the classic 'you'll only go in for your mates' line, the sacrifices and camaraderie that can only be forged in battle, even if the

grass.

Deans also has some interesting, and potentially polarising things to say about the place of soccer in Australia, even

war is fought on an enclosed patch of

there. Soccer in Australia is almost irrevocably a game outside the mainstream - and it will likely never win its place authentically inside the nation's sporting consciousness. Real soccer is in England or in Europe, where it is the main game, where it is in the blood of the people so to speak. For those in Australia for whom Australian soccer has always been the main game, and has (or had) its own mainstream that it has looked after for generations, this will perhaps place the novel as a work directed towards those fans more recently arrived at the game. The extraordinarily vicious portrayal of the rugby journo in particular is a classic example of the convert's attempt to prove their belief in the cause.

Being a certified intentional page turner, Deans' attempt to write a novel on football, but also on such other weighty and complex matters such as love, international pop stardom, the criminal underworld and Aryan conspiracy theories, could have turned into a right mess; yet he's actually managed to write something coherent and remarkably enjoyable.

Mr Cleansheets is no literary masterpiece, but it is a lot of fun. By taking the notion of a midlife crisis to its logical conclusion, Deans has provided a novel for every person who has ever sat and wondered in the quiet of the night, what might have been had they taken the opportunities presented to them, instead of doing the sensible and responsible thing.

## World Cup comes to Frankston!

Saxon Sports in Frankston is hosting a 5-a-side soccer tournament to coincide with the FIFA World Cup in South Africa this year.

32 teams representing the 32 nations in the world cup will be competing to win a full size replica of the world cup as well as substantial prize money.

The tournament will be held over the same period as the World Cup, from 4th June to 11th July 2010.

Chris Hall, General Manager of Saxon Sports said, "This gives us a great opportunity to open up the centre and the great game of soccer to a whole new audience" "we are indebted to former Socceroo and Hall of Fame inductee, Steve

Blair, owner of World of Soccer, who has generously sponsored the whole event to celebrate the opening of his new 'World of Soccer' store in Frankston Shopping Centre'

Ash Rowan, the Sports Manager at Saxon Sports said "We are getting massive interest in the competition with teams from all over the Peninsula getting involved"

If you want to enter the Frankston World Cup 5-a-side competition call Ash Rowan or Chris Hall on 03 9783 6066

If you are interested in marketing opportunities during the competition call Mark on 03 9783 6066





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World of Soccer's Steve Blair with Peter Blasby.



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#### **OAKLEIGH CANNONS**



#### SUNSHINE GEORGIES





#### **Match Details:**

Oakleigh Cannons: Jamie Cumming, John Fitzgerald, Stelios Drakos, Bill Damianos, Jerry Karpeh, Cameron Watson, Michael Curcija, Aristidis Drakos, Nick Kalmar, Scott Webster, Griffin McMaster, Subs: Liuban Palinic, Bonnell Obradovic, Dean Panagopoulos, Scott Agustin, Bill Gasparinatos.

**Sunshine George Cross: Martin** John, Steve Beck, Matthew Cini, Fidell Richards, Douglas Cameron, Kyle Joryeff, (Ben Cogger 82), Evan Christodoulou, Barry Devlin, James Blackburn (George Papadopoulos 75), Andrew Nabbout, David Calleja. Subs: Cameron Salik, Luke Grounds, Tyrone Demetriou.

## Georgies scalp Cannons

By John Lister

THE Oakleigh Cannons' elation at establishing themselves on top of the Premier League proved short lived when round nine kicked off on Friday night.

After defeating Richmond 2-0 in the Anzac Day round, the Cannons fell foul of a Sunshine George Cross outfit that's playing some solid football after up and down form early in the season.

Perhaps it was a case of tired legs after two games in four days or just the onset of the mid-season blues, but the Georgies had the answer for everything the Cannons tried in front of a disappointingly small crowd at the Jack Edwards Reserve, pulling off what could be the upset of the season so far.

A win would have seen the Cannons go six points clear, but the reality is the pack are still snapping at their heels after Richmond defeated South Melbourne.

The Georgies surprised the home team when they took the lead after only eight minutes. Over lapping full back Douglas Cameron sent over a perfect cross from the left that found Andrew Nabbout. The 17 year old youngster tried a first time shot that fortunately found James Blackburn who was able to find the gap to trickle the ball over the line.

The Cannons argued that Cameron should have been flagged for offside, but with play waved on and the ball in the net, their pleas fell on deaf ears.

The home side would have had 85 percent of the play for the rest of the night. But it was all to naught, in fact the Geor-



The Georgies rejoice after upsetting Oakleigh at home. PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

gies, playing deep and countering with quick strikes had as many chances with Cannons' keeper Jamie Cumming pulling off two sensational stops.

He was beaten however early in the second period when Kyle Joryeff was on the end of a counter attack to lob Cumming only to have Stellios Drakos clear off the line.

As time pressed the Cannons got more and more fevered in their seach for an equaliser, it finally arriving in the 79th minute when Michael Curcija ended a

period of intense pressure with a flick from an acute angle, the ball flying past Sunshine 'keeper Martin John and into the inside side netting.

The Cannons went for the kill but Sunshine's nerve and defence held firm. As they pressured in injury time teenager Evan Christodoulou was tackled on the edge of the area and the ball appeared to rebound off a leg and lob over the hapless Cumming for the winner.

Georgies' assistant coach Theo Con-



Georgies keeper John Martin has words with referee as teamate Barry Devlin intervenes..

stantinou, in charge for the night with the absence of senior coach Andy O'Dell, was over the moon while John Anastasiadis was philosophical.

Former Bentleigh Greens player Constantinou said the Georgies' defend deep and counter attack plan worked perfectly. We also made sure that we identified their better players and had them marked by our better players. It was a great team

Anastasiadis was left to reflect on the vagaries of life as a coach in the Premier League, one day seeing his team play some of the best soccer of the season and the next watching as nothing went right. "It was not that we played badly, but nothing went our way. I can't remember a game where we created so many chances but took none of them."

The Cannons will hope to put the season back on track against South Melbourne this weekend while Sunshine hope to continue the winning run when they meet Dandenong Thunder at the Knights Stadium.

#### **RICHMOND EAGLES**





#### SOUTH MELBOURNE





#### Match Details:

Richmond: S.Gal, E.Karahan, M.Ferrante (P.Sawan 78'), D.Tsiaras, M.Lujic (J.Krncevic 64'), D.Visevic, D.Scullion, A.Kovacic, M.Catalano (A.Viola 64'), T.Milardovic, S.Topalovic.

Goals: Karahan 6' Scullion 35' Krncevic 77 Yellow Cards: Karahan 18' Lujic 24'Tsiaras 80 **Red Cards: None** 

South Melbourne: P.Zois, R.Tavsancioglu, E.Cetkin, S.Torrens, C.Recchia, S.Petrovich (Y.Yusuf 75'), D.Vasilevski, F.De Moraes, J.Keenan, G.De Nittis (J.Youssef 67'), S.O'Dor.

Goals: None Yellow Card: Recchia 94' Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Erhan Karahan (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve Crowd: 600

## Eagles floor flying South

#### By Mark Boric

Round Nine VPL action began at Kevin Bartett Reserve on Friday night with Richmond hosting South Melbourne in a top five clash. The early day rain had cleared, but cold conditions saw fog intermittently rolling across the ground making visibility poor at times.

Richmond welcomed back captain Dimitri Tsiaras from suspension, and he was joined in the middle of the park by Michael Ferrante, newly signed from Wellington Phoenix. Unsuprisingly, South Melbourne made no changes to the team which impressively defeated Hume City 6-0 in the Anzac Day Cup.

After four minutes Tsiaras smashed a wild shot over the goal after the ball was cleared to him following a good run by Michael Catalano. Two minutes later, it was David Scullion making inroads down the left, who won a corner. Ferrante swung the ball over, where it was headed in by Erhan Karahan at the near post to give the Eagles an early lead.

In the fourteenth minute a switch of play by Ferrante saw Scullion get into the box on the left, before being held up by a defender with the ball falling to Karahan who fired in a shot which Zois spilled momentarily before regathering. Karahan was in the thick of the action, booked for a foul on Daniel Vasilevski five minutes later after he was caught on the wrong side of the South Melbourne midfielder.

The visitors managed to get the ball into the back of the net through Carl Recchia, but the whistle had already been blown for a foul on Gal. In the thirty-fifth minute Ferrante hit a shot from twentyfive yards straight at Zois. Two minutes later, Richmond doubled their lead. Play



Richmond's Michael Catalano intercepts Joe Keenan's attacking run PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

was switched from right to left, where Scullion carried the ball forward, exchanging a pass with Daniel Visevic before dribbling into the box and steering the ball beyond Zois for his first goal for Richmond since signing from Derry

South Melbourne again had a good spell as half time approached. Eddie Cetkin and Fernando De Moraes both failed to convert chances, leaving the Eagles 2-0 up at the interval.

Lujic had a great opportunity in the fifty-third minute when a ball forward skimmed off a defender's head, and he ran onto it in the clear, before a poor touch saw him forced too wide with some quick covering leading to a shot being

A fierce shot from Petrovich was deflected to safety by Karahan in the fiftyfifth minute. When a partially cleared corner was played back into the area with two South Melbourne played beating the offside trap it was Karahan again to the rescue, sliding in to block the ball after a shot from Steven O'Dor with Gal able to gather and clear. Gal was soon off his line smartly again, to punch away a threatening cross from Rama Tavsancioglu on the

South Melbourne were enjoying a solid spell of pressure, and went the closest yet to pulling a goal back in the fiftyninth minute when a ball from the left saw Vasilevski drive a shot into the base

of the post. A lapse in concentration from Antun Kovacic almost allowed South a run on goal as he lost the ball dragging it across after some needless back-passing, but his sliding challenge cleared the ball away as De Nittis tried to square it to De

Richmond had a chance on the counter, a surging run out of defence seeing Topalovic cross from the right for Lujic who's header went just wide of the goal. A run from Scullion down the left saw him centre to Ferrante, who teed the ball up for Topalovic on his right but the shot flew high over the crossbar. The seventythird minute saw Petrovich pick up an over hit cross from the right and pull the ball back for Vasilevski who chipped an effort just beyond the top corner of the

Substitute Jesse Krncevic was fouled on the edge of the box on seventy-five minutes, Visevic's free kicking skimming the top of the crossbar. It would be the Visevic-Krncevic combination who would seal the win for Richmond in the seventyseventh minute. Visevic was played the ball down the right, making his way to the corner flag before finding Krncevic with a delightful cross, his strike partner joining him on five goals for the season by placing his header past the stranded

Visevic then had another free kick attempt, which was a more off the mark than his earlier effort, before making a great run down the right and chipping to the far post where Peter Sawan arrived just a little too late to turn the ball in alongside the far post. In the fourth minute of stoppage time Recchia went into the book for a second dig at behind on Tsiaras after fouling him as the frustration of the night got the better of him, Richmond recording a 3-0 win at the final whistle.



DANDENONG THUNDER



**GREEN GULLY** 





#### Match Details:

**Dandenong Thunder:** S.Webster, L.Osman, N.Bahenson, J.Bright. D.Uhalovski(A.Wilford), S.Rexhepi, S.Bulloch, R.Davidson, V.Kurgarevski, J.Diorio, I.Brahimi(A.Avoullai).

Goals: J.Diorio '50 Yellow Cards: A.Avoullai

Green Gully: N.Roganovic, S.Burton, M.Medjedovic, D.Jones, J.Fleming, M.Sanders, N.Robinson(M.Anderson), G.Hockless, J.Munoz. J.Groenewald, A.Vargas.

Goals: N/A Yellow Cards: Joshua Groe-

Man of the Match: Joshua Groenewald (Gully)

Crowd: 1500

## Joey Steals Gully's Thunder

By Markian Jaworsky

**Under 17 World Cup Finalist Joey** DiOrio has once again become the nemesis the Cavaliers, scoring a winning goal for the Thunder, this time against the run of play at George Andrew's Reserve in Dandenong.

The Green Gully Cavaliers had clocked up many kilometres in successive weekend road trips, but have had trouble clocking any digits on the scoreboard. Gully Coach Paul Harris was not helped this weekend with the absence of Ryan Ollerton in defense, and Gary Wales missing up front, limiting the amount of in-game tactical changes the Cavaliers could make during the match against the Thunder, and evidently the visiting team dominated most of the game but faded out later in the second half.

Joshua Groenewald, subject to interest from Melbourne Heart, worked extremely hard along with the Gully midfield in the first half, steaming up and down the left wing and putting in many solid tackles

Goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic, also subject to interest from Melbourne Heart made two early critical saves to keep the visitors in the game.

Gully dominated the play in the first half, yet were not able to capitalise on the many attacking plays and corner kicks they had accumulated.

In the second half, the Thunder sat back and waited for their opportunity. Within five minutes, the opportunity fell to the feet of Joey DiOrio. Joey's movement on the ball could be compared to that of



Kevin Townson gets the accolades after scoring a brace. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

an slippery eel in fast running river rapids. Moving backwards and forwards, Joey opened up a gap in the Gully defense to get in a shot at goal and effective win Dandenong the three points.

The goal affected the travelling Cavaliers, and the Thunder pressed hard for a second goal. Gully Coach Paul Harris elected to bring on youngster Michael Anderson to mix it up a bit, up forward. The change nearly paid dividends, 10 minutes from fulltime, Anderson latched onto a long ball, rounded Thunder goalkeeper Stuart Webster, but was pushed

wide of the goal, and Anderson's shot hit the outside of the goal.

The win pushes Dandenong out of the relegation fight, but drags the Cavaliers right back into it, with the Cavaliers due to play bottom team Heidelberg next

#### **MELBOURNE KNIGHTS**



**BENTLEIGH GREENS** 





#### **Match Details:**

**Melbourne Knights** 1. Ante Loncaric, 2. Ryan Filipovic, 4. Ben Surey, 5. Bryan Bran, 7. Liam Cannell (15, Anthony Colosimo 75'), 8. Josip Magdic, 11. Kevin Townson, 12. Adrian Zahra, 13. Thomas Skara, 16. Jacob Colosimo (10. Ivica Praiz 61'), 19. Gazmend Aidini.

Unused subs: 21. Matthew Vrbec, 18. Michael Grgic.

Goals: Townson 18'.

Bentleigh

21. Clifford Henry, 4. Craig Smart, 5. Sammy Devito, 8. Craig Metcalfe (2. George Stavridis 80'), 9. Taxiarhis Apostolakas (18. Johnny Sapazovski 75'), 10. Alex Rojas, 14. Tony Ouliakis, 17. Jack Webster, 19. Dean Piemonte, 24. Damir Lonvancic, 25. Luke Fitzpatrick.

Unused subs: 31. Michael Theocharous, 12. Adam Fadjevic.

Goals: Ouliakis 23', 28'.

### Knights slip to Greens pressed with the result, and felt sorry for

By Luke Sheehan

MELBOURNE Knights slumped to a 2-1 home defeat to Bentleigh Greens at Knights Stadium on Sunday, now having lost two of their last three.

The grass is much greener for Bentleigh, propelling the promotion side into the top five on the Premier League ladder (as of Sunday night).

Greens coach Goran Lozanovski had a lot of respect for Melbourne after the

"They are a good side, obviously they've been in form the last couple of weeks, and they're a very unpredictable side, nobody knows too much about their players.

"Obviously the good thing about their players is they've got nothing to lose and a lot to gain, so compared to our players, we've got a handful of well-known players and reputation takes you a long way, and if you don't put the hard yards in, you get found out.'

Lozanovski said stand-in keeper Clifford Henry, who has been in goal for injured captain and first choice keeper Peter Gavalas for a number of games, has been standing tall for the Greens.

"Cliff knew he was coming in as second choice, so he's been working hard. But at the same time, injuries, suspensions do happen. He had a sloppy start to his first game against Gully, played very well against Dandenong and today he had an indifferent first half to his second half. His second half was a bit better.

"It's hard when you haven't played in a while and all of a sudden you get thrown in the mix under pressure. To be honest, I think he's come a long way in the last couple of weeks and he's doing a good ioh for us' Knights coach Ivan Duzel was not imfeel sorry for our supporters. We come good in the first ten minutes, scored a goal and played a good game. "In this period we should have scored

"It was a shock to us all, and I especially

the Melbourne fans.

another one, but unfortunately we come back with our game. (There were) a couple of mistakes that I can't sort out, and we couldn't come back from it. "We played defensive, the way we played

second half, there was no aggression around the 16-vard box, and you have to show that you want to win the game and score the goals. We were casual.'

Duzel said he missed the influence of Jean Charles-Dubois on the pitch, who will return this week

"Missing Jean, a guy who makes his opponent tired and never gives up, and I believe without him it's hard to play the system I am playing.

"Everything, Jean is a striker, he wants to score the goal. He's aggressive, in the 16-yard box, we missed something today. We didn't want to score the goal, we didn't have that (player)."

This week, the Knights welcome back Charles-Dubois for a clash with Northcote City while Bentleigh face Hume City, who beat Altona 2-1 at home on



Greens' Tony Ouliaris equalisers with a header. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK



Knights' Kevin Townson scores. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

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**HUME CITY** 



**ALTONA MAGIC** 



1

**Match Details:** 

Hume City: Lupce Acevski, Fabio Dilizia, Steven Pace, Isiyan Erdogan, Alponso Opazo, Turhan Sumbul, Richard Cardozo, Goran Talevski, Tansel Baser, Dusko Delic, Michael Bosevski

South Melbourne: Peter Zois, Steve O'Dor (Stiven Mrkela 85'), Daniel Vasilevaski, Eddie Cetkin, Carl Recchia (Joseph Youssef 75'), Sam Torrens, Rama Tavsancioglu, Fernando De Moraes, Sebastian Petrovic (Yusuf Yusuf 68'), Gianni De Nittis, Joe Keenan

Goals: Fernando De Moraes 35', Gianni De Nittis 42', 43', 53', 88', Man of the Match:

Gianni De Nittis (SMFC) Venue: Broadmeadows Valley

Crowd: 700

**Hume City bounce back** 

By Gordon Bennett

Hume City returning to Valley Park for the third week in a row, were pumped to avenge the unexpected defeat to South Melbourne by scoring through the good work of young striker Turhan Sumbul who put the ball in the Altona goals after 2 minutes of play.

Eager to gain some respect Hume City continued to press on the Altona goals through Richard Cardoza and Andy Vlahos who returned for his team after 4 weeks on the sidelines through a knee injury

It was the experienced Vlahos who almost made it 2-0 after a brilliant cross by Sumbul, only to send the ball wide of the goals.

Hume City which had full control of the midfield through Baser and Opazo continued to attack down the wings with Valhos and Talevski causing the Magic headaches down the wings.

Altona who battled the early onslaught by Hume City came close after a long ball into attack which was cleared by Turhan Sumbul at the 19th minute of the match. With Altona Magic fighting to swing the ascendency of the match their way, they almost scored an equaliser after Koce Delev sent the ball over the cross bar for Altona Magic.

With Pece Siveski and Matthew Theodore lifting the midfield tempo, Hume City the ball in the back of their net after Radojicic scored from a ripping strike sending both teams into the halftime break at 1-1.

The second half began as the first ended with Altona Magic eager to slog out a draw from Valley Park. With the physicallity in the match lifting a knotch, Theodre took a long distance shot on goal only to be denied by Acevski at the 50 minute mark.

Izzy Erdogan was in everything making sure every attack formed by Magic was dismissed along with a steady performance by Fab Delizzio and Serda Pir in defence.

Richard Cardoza inflicted pain for the Magic after his brilliant cross was sent into the goals by the defenders at the 54th minute of the match to send the home team up 2-1.

With Altona becoming increasingly frustrated, Hume City continued to attack on the Magic goals, unable to pass the keeper.

Altona Magic almost equalised at the 63rd minute when Acevski leaped for a ball only to mistime it with the defence lunging to clear an almost certain goal for the Magic. With Hume sensing victory Vlahos, Sumbul and Cardoza continued to attack on goals with no success and the match finsihing 2-1, giving Hume City their 6th victory from 9 matches and leaving Altona at the bottom of the table with only 1 win for the 2010 season.



Hume's Louie Acevski makes a spectacular save.



Action from yesterday's match PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



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HEIDELBERG UNITED



NORTHCOTE CITY





#### Match details:

Heidelberg United: Christian MORALES; John LAZARIDIS. Reza HOSSAINI, Paul MILLER, Yanni GALANOS, Harry MATK-OVIC, Josip KOZIC (Steve MAR-TIN 46'), Hamid BASMA, Craig ELVIN, Osagie EDERARO, Saso **ALEXOVSKI (Junior MELO 77')** Subs not used: Jason KOUT-SODONTIS (GK), Kurt CRNIC.

Goal: Hamid Basma 19' Yellow Cards: Alexovski Red cards: Nil

**TEAM LINE-UP:** Northcote City: Chris THE-**ODORIDIS-PETROPOULOS:** Adrian CHIAPPETTA, Bradley **NORTON (James KALIFATIDIS** 65'), George PAPADOPOULOS, **Nicholas CURTIS, Trent RIXON** (Jonathan VOULGARIS 79'), Harry KINIGOPOULOS, Hayden D'AGOSTINO, Eddie SOARES, Nick TZOULIS (Antoni JANK-OVSKI 85'), Mark MCGOUGH. Subs not used: Nikolaos GOUNTARAS (GK), Paul SAVIO.

Goals: Eddie Soares 39', Trent Rixon 45', 68', 70', 72' Yellow Cards: Nil Red cards: Nil

Crowd: approx 1000 Player of the Match: Trent Nixon (Northcote City)

## Rixon Quadruple Derby Delight

By John Fotinos

Nothcote City has trounced Heidelberg United 5-1 following an emphatic display at the Olympic Village this evening. With skipper Trent Rixon leading the way with four goals in a man of the match performance, including three in five minutes midway through the second half, Northcote were at times rampant against a Heidelberg side totally bereft of confi-

Heidelberg actually took the lead in the game after Hamid Basma fired home a volley from close range after 19 minutes. As the first half wore on, however, it was Northcote looking the more threatening. In the final 10 minutes of the first half, the whole complexion of the game changed when the visitors scored twice to take a deserved 2-1 lead into the main break. On 39 minutes, Soares made it 1-1, jabbing home a loose ball following some lead up work on the left by Kinigopoulos & Rixon. Then, on the stroke of half time, Rixon was on hand to tap in a loose ball from close in after a McGough strike was parried by Morales in the Heidelberg goal.

Early in the second half, Northcote 'keeper Theodoridis-Petropoulos was on hand to preserve Northcote's lead when he foiled Alexovski. With the game at a relative stalemate, Northcote's Rixon, returning after an injury lay-off, turned the match in the space of five minutes. In the 68th minute, Rixon headed home powerfully after he met a low cross from Kinigopoulos to give Northcote a 3-1 lead. Just two minutes later it was 4-1, as Rixon wriggled free of Elvin & fired home his hat-trick to effectively seal the three points for his team.

Rixon's fourth of the night came just a further two minutes later, and followed a slick move that involved five one touch passes by Northcote, who were riding high on confidence at this point. The ball ended up at Rixon's feet & with a neat first touch, the striker let fly with a stunning shot that gave Morales no chance as it flew into the top

corner to leave the scoreline at 5-1 in favour of Northcote City. The goal was matched in part by the jubilant celebrations of the visiting fans, as Rixon and his teammates rushed to the fence to share their joy following a strike that may be a contender for goal of the season. With his four goal tally completing a great night for Rixon, his coach Peter Tsolakis was afforded the luxury of substituting Rixon for the last 15 minutes as Northcote coasted to a stunning win over their neighbours.

For Heidelberg, its season is looking progressively dim, as it loses ground to the other teams in the fight for VPL status, particularly in terms of the manner of tonight's loss. Next Saturday afternoon, it travels to Green Gully to meet a recently lacklustre Gully side, who will be smarting after successive defeats. Northcote City will host Melbourne Knights on Sunday at John Cain Reserve, no doubt buoyed by its victory

In the Under-21's match this afternoon, Heidelberg United 1 def Northcote City 0.



Trent Rixon makes a point of his swag of goals. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Action from last night's late local derby game between Heidelberg and Northcote PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

VPL 2010 | Round 9 | Errea Scoreboard

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#### /PL Standings Round 9

W 10 **Oakleigh Cannons** 11 **Richmond** 16 **Hume City** 15 **South Melbourne Bentleigh Greens Sunshine Georgies Northcote City** 11 10 3 10 **Dandenong Thunder** 15 3 9 11 **Green Gully Cavaliers** 0 13 9 2 **Melbourne Knights** 9 13 8 **Altona Magic** 9 4 11 **Heidelberg Utd** 3 8 3

N.T.C v Oakleigh Cannons Jack Edwards Reserve

Wed 5 May KO 8:30PM

Fri 7 May KO 8:30pm

Bentleigh Greens v Hume City Kingston Heath Soccer Complex

Green Gully Cavaliers v Heidelberg Utd Green Gully Reserve Sat 8 May KO 3:00pm

Altona Magic v Richmond Eagles Sat 8 May KO 7:00pm

Northcote City v Melbourne Knights John Cain Memorial Park

Sun 9 May KO 3:00pm

South Melbourne v Oakleigh Cannons Kingston Heath Soccer Complex Sat 8 May KO 3:00pm

Sunshine Georgies v Dandenong Thunder Mon 10 May KO 8:15pm

#### **VPL Under 21**s

	P W DLFAGDPt	
South Melbourne	10 7 2 1 21 13 23	
Oakleigh Cannons	9 6 2 1 27 13 20	
Bentleigh Greens	9 6 0 3 19 13 18	
Richmond	9 5 1 3 20 14 16	
N.T.C	8 4 3 1 29 14 15	
Northcote City	9 4 2 3 25 20 14	
Green Gully Cavaliers	10 3 2 5 14 31 11	
Sunshine Georgies	9 3 1 5 16 19 10	
Altona Magic	10 2 2 6 9 21 8	
Heidelberg Utd	7 3 1 3 12 12 7	
Hume City	9 2 3 4 17 19 6	
Dandenong Thunder	9 1 3 5 11 24 6	
Melbourne Knights	8 0 2 6 6 13 -1	

Oakleigh Cannons 5 Surenine

Richmond 0 South Melbourne 2

Dandenong Thunder 2 Green Gully

Melbourne Knights 0 Bentleigh Greens 1

Hume City 2 Altona Magic 3

Monday 3rd May 2010

14

**19** 

4

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